Foreign Broadcast Information Service 50 ANNIVERSARY 1941 - 1991

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-231
Monday
2 December 1991

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-231 2 December 1991

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Foreign Ministers Continue Talks 27 Nov 1
View Peace Process, Iraq UN Resolutions *[KUNA]* 1
Discuss Security Arrangements *[Kuwait Radio]* 1
End Preparatory Session *[KUNA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Delegation Arrives in Amman; 'Ashrawi Interviewed *[Amman Radio]* 2
Delegates To 'Coordinate' With Jordanian Team *[Algiers VOP]* 2
U.S. Embassy To Issue Visas 2 Dec *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 30 Nov]* 3
Departure for Washington Postponed *[AFP]* 3
'Technical' Procedures Cited *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
Jerusalem Radio on Delegation's Delay 3
'Abd-al-Shafi, 'Ashrawi on Talks, Israeli Stance *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 1 Dec]* 4
'Ashrawi on Leadership, Autonomy in Territories *[AL-DUSTUR 2 Dec]* 4
Abu-Mazin Discusses Arab-Israeli Talks *[Rabat MAP]* 5
Tel Aviv—Palestinian Plan 'Ignores' Autonomy 6
'Arafat—Palestinians 'Committed' to Peace Process *[AFP]* 7
'Arafat Message to UN Committee on Solidarity Day *[Algiers VOP]* 7
'Arafat Receives Iraqi Foreign Minister in Tunis *[Baghdad Radio]* 8
DFLP-PFLP Communique Urges 4 Dec Strike *[AFP]* 8
Demonstrators Reject U.S.-Israeli 'Plot' *[AFP]* 8
Car Belonging to PNC Speaker's Son Torched *[Jerusalem TV]* 9
Former AL-FAJR Journalist To Start New Daily *[Jerusalem TV]* 9

OPEC Affairs

OPEC's 90th Ministerial Conference Meets 26 Nov *[Vienna OPECNA]* 9
Agreement Reached on Production Ceiling *[Vienna OPECNA]* 9
Conference President on Price Prospects *[Vienna OPECNA]* 10

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Fundamentalists Attack Border Post, Kill 3 Guards *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Authorities Discover Arms Cache *[TAP]* 11
Security Forces Launch Manhunt *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Ghozali Discusses French Ties, Elections, Libya *[Paris Television]* 11
Legislature Approves Demonstrations Bill *[Algiers Radio]* 15

Egypt

Mubarak Message To UN on Palestinians *[MENA]* 16
Mubarak on Economic Reform, Peace Talks *[MENA]* 17
Foreign Minister Stresses Land for Peace Principle *[Cairo Radio]* 18
Further on Iran, Peace Talks, Sudan *[MENA]* 18
Al-Baz To Go to Amman To Prepare for Summit *[MENA]* 18

'Arafat Comments on Meeting With Mubarak *[MENA]* 18
'Arafat Meets With Iraqi Foreign Minister *[Algiers VOP]* 19
'Zionism' Said Behind Pan Am Operation *[AKHIR SA'AH 27 Nov]* 19

Libya

Message on Lockerbie Circulated at UN *[JANA]* 20
Lockerbie Investigator Requests Access to Documents *[JANA]* 20
Al-Qadhdhafi Briefed on Arab Support *[JANA]* 20
Assets Transferred From Europe to Near East *[AFP]* 21
Former Diplomat Denies Guilt in French Bombing *[AFP]* 21
Judicial Cooperation With France Sought *[JANA]* 21
New Envoy Appointed to Soviet Union *[JANA]* 22
Al-Bishari Receives Soviet Ambassador 29 Nov *[JANA]* 22
Group Supports Libya, Threatens U.S. Interests *[AL-SAFIR 27 Nov]* 22

Morocco

Iraqi Delegation Discusses UN Blockade *[INA]* 22
King Hassan II Pays Official Visit to Italy *[cross-reference]* 23

Tunisia

Iraq Seeking Release of Planes, Frozen Assets *[MENA]* 23
President Receives Iraqi Envoy *[INA]* 23

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Maltreatment of Palestinians 'Vehemently Denied' *[KUNA]* 24
Defense Minister Plans To Restructure Armed Forces
[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 26 Nov] 24
Finance Minister Cited on War Costs *[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 22 Nov]* 24

Saudi Arabia

Pakistani Beheaded in $8 Million Heroin Haul *[AFP]* 25

United Arab Emirates

Petroleum Minister Estimates World Oil Demand *[WAKH]* 25

Republic of Yemen

Soviet Invitation to Peace Meeting Received *[Sanaa Radio]* 25
Salih Receives Gorbachev Message on Soviet Affairs *[Sanaa Radio]* 25
Central Region 'Rocked' by Earthquake 22 Nov 26
10 Reported Killed *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 26
Sudan's al-Bashir Cables Condolences *[Sanaa Radio]* 26

IRAQ

Saddam Said Arming PKK To Murder U.S. Citizens *[Istanbul MILLIYET 25 Nov]* 27
Saddam, al-Majid Meet Military Bureau Members *[INA]* 27
Saddam Letter Stresses Palestinian Rights *[INA]* 27
Saddam Husayn Meets Kurdish Leader Barzani 30 Nov *[INA]* 28
'Kurdish Source' on Barzani Visit *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 28
Barzani Visit To Aid Dialogue *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 28
Commentary, Editorial on Kurdish-Regime Talks 29
Resumption of Dialogue Urged *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 29

Agreement 'Fatal Blow' to Enemies *[Baghdad Radio]* 29
Barzani Denies Reports Seeking To Visit Turkey *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 30
Delegation Presents Case to UN Reparations Body *[INA]* 30
Ba'th Regional Command Bureau Urges Blockade End *[INA]* 31
Papers Urge Security Council To Lift Blockade *[INA]* 31
BABIL Resumes Publication 30 Nov *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 30 Nov]* 32
Oil Minister Returns From OPEC Meeting 1 Dec *[INA]* 32
Magazine Cited on Participation in ICO Summit *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 32
Ghali Selection as UN Secretary General Viewed *[AL-THAWRAH 25 Nov]* 32

ISRAEL

Official Position on U.S. Talks Released *[GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE]* 34
Cabinet Decides 'No Change' in Talks Position *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 35
More on Cabinet Decision *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Shamir, Levi Differences at Meeting Noted *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Shamir Sticking to Cabinet Position on U.S. Talks *[DAVAR 2 Dec]* 36
'Junior' Envoys To Attend Opening of Talks *[Jerusalem TV]* 36
Shamir Addresses Journalists on Peace Process *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
29 Nov News Conference *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Ambassador Shoval on U.S.-Israeli Relations *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 29 Nov]* 39
Urges U.S. To Clarify Position to Arabs *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Ministers Comment on Peace Talks Decision 41
Meridor on Peace Talks, Settlements *[Jerusalem TV]* 41
Sharon—Government Lost 'Credibility' *[Tel Aviv TV]* 45
Political Echelon Seeks End to Talks Dispute *[HA'ARETZ 29 Nov]* 46
U.S. Planning 15 Dec Multilateral Talks in USSR *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 1 Dec]* 47
Shamir Aide Hopes Cicippio Release Aids MIAs *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
Negotiators Comment on Prisoner Release 47
Slonim on Shiite Prisoners *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
Lubrani Discusses Initiative *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 47
Lubrani on Mutual Exchange Offer *[AFP]* 49
Perez De Cuellar Hopes 'To Close' Hostage File *[Jerusalem Radio]* 49
Spanish Prime Minister Arrives for Visit 2 Dec *[Jerusalem Radio]* 49
Meets Shamir, Discusses Peace Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 49
Notes 'Profound' Ties *[Jerusalem Radio]* 49
Meets Levi, Discusses Israel in EEC *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
Egyptian Delegation Welcomes Talks Decision *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
Sharon Proposal Redefines Central District *[HADASHOT 29 Nov]* 50
Attorney General To Examine Housing Overspending *[Jerusalem Radio]* 51
State Attorney Given Extension on Silwan Issue *[Jerusalem Radio]* 51
Vanunu Supporters Demonstrate at Dimona *[Jerusalem Radio]* 51
Defense Sources on Jazzin Withdrawal Issue *[HA'ARETZ 28 Nov]* 51
'No Intention' To Permit Return of Syrian Druze *[Jerusalem Radio]* 52

JORDAN

Delegation Departs for Washington Talks 2 Dec *[Amman Radio]* 53
PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Amman 1 Dec *[Amman TV]* 53
Comments Upon Arrival *[Amman Radio]* 53
Confers With Prime Minister *[Amman Radio]* 53
Meets With King Husayn *[Amman Radio]* 54
King Issues Palestinian Solidarity Day Message *[Amman Radio]* 54
King Receives Egypt's al-Baz, Mubarak Message *[Amman Radio]* 55
Cairo Summit With Egypt Set for 'Coming Week' *[AL-BAYAN 29 Nov]* 55
'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat Elected House Speaker *[Amman Radio]* 55

LEBANON

Cicippio Free, Headed for Damascus *[Beirut Radio]* 57
Al-Tufayli: Hostage Issue To End 'by Christmas' *[VOL]* 57

Italian Official in Beirut Fears Hostage Dead *[ANSA]* 57
Al-Hasan Will Not Attend Washington Talks *[AFP]* 57
Buwayz Names Delegation to Washington Talks *[Beirut Radio]* 58
Comments on Delegation, Jazzin Issue *[VOL]* 58
Meets With Delegation *[VOM]* 58
Implementation of Resolution 425 To Be Demanded *[Beirut Radio]* 59
Twenty-Five Prisoners Released From al-Khiyam *[Jerusalem Radio]* 59
Freed Lebanese Claim Abuse *[AFP]* 59
Hizballah Says Release Not Goodwill Gesture *[VOM]* 60
Hizballah: Struggle Continues Until 'Ubayd Freed *[Tehran Radio]* 60
Israel Reportedly Agrees To Release 200 Detainees *[VOL]* 60
UNIFIL Rejects Adjacent Lebanese Deployments *[RFL]* 60
Israel Resumes Shelling Southern Villages *[VOM]* 60
Libya's Durdah Praises Arab Stand on 'Threats' *[Beirut Radio]* 60
Iraqi Charge Calls Junblatt 'One of Our Friends' *[VOM]* 61

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Hard-Line Mojahedin Agree on Political Solution *[Tehran Radio]* 62
Iran Plans Talks With Rebels, Pakistan *[AFP]* 62
USSR To Step Up Diplomatic Cutbacks *[AFP]* 62
Najibollah Message on Constitutional Anniversary *[BAKHTAR]* 63
Nation World's Biggest Producer of Opium Resin *[AFP]* 63

Bangladesh

Libyan Official Seeks Support on Lockerbie Issue *[AFP]* 64
Zia Criticizes 'Harsh' Loan Terms, Awami League *[AFP]* 64

India

Bomb Found on Air India Airliner *[AFP]* 65
Catering Official Arrested *[Delhi Radio]* 65
Government Rejects Canadian Rights Criticisms *[Delhi Radio]* 66
Minister Notes Dialogue With Punjab Militants *[Delhi Radio]* 66
Editorial Urges Early Transfer of Tin Bigha *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 16 Nov]* 66
J.N. Dixit Takes Over as Foreign Secretary *[Delhi Radio]* 67

Iran

Rafsanjani Sermon on 'Chance' in History *[Tehran Radio]* 67
Second Friday Prayer Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* 67
Commentary Claims U.S. Bias Toward Israel *[Tehran Radio]* 69
Official Notes Payments Unrelated to Hostages *[IRNA]* 69
Habibi on Upcoming OIC Summit *[IRNA]* 69
Iraqi Military Said Evicting Kurds From Towns *[IRNA]* 70

Nepal & Bhutan

Prime Minister Assesses Indian, PRC Relations *[AFP]* 70
Opposition Criticizes Cost of Living Increases *[AFP]* 71
Prime Minister Plans Cabinet Reshuffle *[AFP]* 71

Pakistan

Opposition Strike in South 'Totally Failed' *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Prime Minister Urges Muslim Weapons Cooperation *[AFP]* 72
Commentary Criticizes India's Kashmir Policy *[Islamabad Radio]* 72

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Foreign Ministers Continue Talks 27 Nov

View Peace Process, Iraq UN Resolutions

LD2711145691 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0840 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 27 Nov (KUNA)—The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers will end [words indistinct] which is scheduled to be held in Kuwait at the end of next month. The foreign ministers of the six GCC member states completed the discussion of the political, economic, and military aspects during last night's session. In a statement made after the end of the session, GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah said that [words indistinct] the fields related to the means of strengthening security and stability.

Bisharah pointed out that the ministers reviewed the developments of the peace process in the Middle East region and the GCC's role in safeguarding the unity of Arab stances at the peace conference and strengthening coordination to push forward the march of [words indistinct]. The GCC foreign ministers held their second session yesterday morning in which they reviewed the developments of the implementation of the UN Security Council's resolutions, which were issued against Iraq as a result of its invasion of Kuwait.

In a press statement after the session, GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah said the followup of the implementation of those resolutions briefly was discussed, particularly those related to the issue of the release of Kuwaiti prisoners detained by the Iraqi regime and the return of the property which it stole and seized during its invasion of Kuwait in addition to the topic of border demarcation. [passage omitted]

The GCC secretary general added that the foreign ministers reviewed the situation in the region in general in their meetings yesterday morning. He also pointed out that due to the fact that this topic is sensitive and important, the Ministerial Council saw fit to continue the discussion and the consultation on this issue in the evening session. The foreign ministers held a closed session, which was confined to the heads of the delegations. The final session was then held last night. The proceedings of the meetings are to be completed this morning.

Discuss Security Arrangements

NC2711160291 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council states resumed their meetings this morning, which was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah. They will continue discussing regional security arrangements with a view to bolstering security and stability.

The foreign ministers will also discuss Middle East peace developments and GCC states participating in the conference's third phase. They will also review cooperation between the GCC and world economic groupings.

End Preparatory Session

LD2711180891 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 27 Nov (KUNA)—The GCC foreign ministers this evening ended the preparatory proceedings for the upcoming GCC summit.

GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah announced that agreement was reached regarding the proposed agenda, which includes a number of political, security, and military aspects. The meetings were chaired by Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister for foreign affairs.

Mr. Bisharah held a news conference held this evening following the final closed session. Mr. Bisharah indicated that with regard to political issues, the participants studied the matter of implementing the UNSC resolutions pertaining to the effects of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and how to deal with them. They also discussed the need to study ways of imposing a blockade against this regime in order to force it to implement all international resolutions.

He pointed out that the Ministerial Council also studied ways of bolstering relations with Iran in its capacity as an essential partner in Gulf waters. He stressed the need to find a permanent regional understanding for the sake of the region's stability and security.

The GCC secretary general announced that the GCC foreign ministers will hold a meeting with Iran's Foreign Minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, next March in order to define the general conceptions regarding relations between the two sides.

Mr. 'Abdallah Bisharah stated that the Ministerial Council also studied the role of the GCC vis-a-vis the Middle East peace process. He stressed the council's welcome of the resumption of the second round of negotiations in Washington. He expressed his hope for the realization of Arab demands, which express the resolutions of international legitimacy embodied in the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, the Israeli withdrawal from Arab occupied territories, and solving the issue of Jerusalem.

He added that the council discussed the international situation and world development known as the New World Order, which focuses on containing seats of tension in the world. It also puts the emphasies on development, respect of international legitimacy, and commitment to its principles.

With regard to the military side, Mr. Bisharah noted that during the Ministerial Council's preparatory meeting,

recommendations of the GCC defence ministers were discussed, which in their turn will be submitted to the summit.

Mr. Bisharah pointed out that the GCC interior ministers will hold a meeting on 10 December in Doha to discuss aspects of cooperation in the security sphere.

Mr. Bisharah stated that the Ministerial Council will resume its meetings on 22 December in Kuwait by holding two meetings: one for foreign ministers, and the other will be a joint one with the GCC ministers of finance and economy to put the final touches to the agenda which will be submitted to the upcoming summit.

The GCC secretary general noted that a joint meeting of ministers of the GCC ministers of trade, finance, and economy will take place during the coming 10 days to study the trade aspects for the circulation of goods among the GCC states and ways of activating this circulation. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Delegation Arrives in Amman; 'Ashrawi Interviewed

JN2911143791 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] The Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, which will be held in Washington on 4 December, arrived in Amman today via the King Husayn bridge.

Our colleague George Tarif held the following telephone interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian side:

[Begin recording] [Tarif] Dr. Hanan, if you please, what is the objective of your visit to Jordan today?

['Ashrawi] The objective is basically to hold further coordination and to arrive at unified, coordinated positions with Jordan for the sake of discussing issues related to the bilateral talks in Washington.

[Tarif] Dr. Hanan, if you please, is there any change in the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the talks?

['Ashrawi] There is a change regarding the team in general. However, no changes have taken place to the negotiating delegation, the 14 members. However, the political committee has been reduced. It now includes three members from Jerusalem and three from outside the occupied territories. Also the technical team, the specialists, and advisers will not participate directly, but they will be there if needed. If they are needed, we will summon them.

[Tarif] Dr. Hanan, news agencies have said that Mr. Faysal al- Husayni will not go to Washington at this stage?

['Ashrawi] Yes, he will not go at present. However, he is still the leader of the entire team, but he has some commitments because he has been away from the region for some time. He has specific tasks to carry out in the occupied territories. Perhaps, he will join us at a later time, but we will keep in touch to keep abreast of any developments.

[Tarif] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, if you please, what is your reaction to Israel's postponement of the talks?

['Ashrawi] First, this is an attempt to gain time and to create a fait accompli. It is also an attempt for maneuvering and postponement. It is also a slap in the face of the cosponsors. This creates a gap between Israel, on the one hand, and the cosponsors and other states on the other. We received an invitation to participate in bilateral talks in Washington on 4 December, and we have accepted that invitation. However, Israel is isolating itself politically and internationally with its attempts to reimpose its will and to dictate what it wants on all sides. Of course, this is something we will not accept.

[Tarif] Dr. Hanan, the last question concerns the issues expected to be discussed in Washington.

['Ashrawi] Yes, actually there are several issues. We will not discuss the details of the negotiating strategy, but it is clear that the issue of settlements and the Israeli practices are essential and basic issues that must be resolved before making any progress, or before beginning with the essential issues.

[Tarif] Thank you Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian side to Washington talks.

['Ashrawi] Thank you. You are welcome. [end recording]

Delegates To 'Coordinate' With Jordanian Team

LD3011193991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] The Palestinian delegation to the [Washington peace] talks yesterday arrived in Amman from the occupied territories, and it will leave for Washington on Monday. The delegation's spokeswoman, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, said that the Palestinian delegation will hold talks with the Jordanian delegation to coordinate stances and to lay a united strategy before the two delegations' departure for Washington. 'Ashrawi expects a change in the Israeli position regarding the date of the talks. She said: Israel is trying to impose its will on international legitimacy, and consequently it is isolating itself from international diplomacy and will lose a great deal. 'Ashrawi stressed that the participating Arab sides are prepared and ready to respond to the invitation to go to Washington even if Israel refuses to do so, because then Israel will alone be responsible for destroying the peace process. Brother Faysal al-Husayni has announced that he will remain in the occupied territories because he has a mission to follow up the work of the political committees. Al-Husayni said that the quality of the Palestinians' relations with Syria is steadily improving.

'Ashrawi, who stands beside Husayni, said that the Americans have put two separate halls at the disposal of the Palestinian and Jordanian delegates for talks with Israel. 'Ashrawi said: Our strategy is prepared, and the content of our demands will speak for us, even if we do not have an infrastructure in the United States similar to that which Israel has in order to win public support.

U.S. Embassy To Issue Visas 2 Dec

JN0112175191 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 30 Nov 91 p 21

[Excerpt] Amman—An official at the U.S. Embassy in Amman has confirmed that the embassy received instructions from Washington to grant members of the Guidance Committee [lajnat al-tawjih] to the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference, who reside outside the occupied territories, entry visas for the United States.

The official told an AL-BAYAN correspondent in Amman that the embassy will issue these visas to the committee members on Monday morning before the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation leaves the Jordanian capital for Washington. [passage omitted]

Departure for Washington Postponed

NC0212091391 Paris AFP in English 0845 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Amman, Dec 2 (AFP)—A Palestinian delegation to attend bilateral Middle East peace talks in Washington this week has been delayed until Tuesday "for technical reasons," spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi told AFP Monday.

"Certain members of the delegation who had made visa requests at the U.S. consulate general in Jerusalem, had to reapply in Amman, which delayed the process, but there was no rejection," she explained, denying reports that delegates had ben turned down.

'Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman at the Madrid Middle East peace conference last month, said efforts had been made to complete the formalities on Monday before the departure of a regular flight to Frankfurt at 11:00 a.m. local time (0900 GMT). "unfortunately that wasn't possible and we'll therefore leave Tuesday."

The Jordanian delegation is accompanying a Jordanian delegation to the bilateral discussion in Washington. [sentence as received]

In a related development, 'Ashrawi in comments published Monday in Qatar urged Europe to present its own initiative if U.S. efforts in the region fail.

"The European countries, which chose to support the American efforts, are being asked to provide an alternative in case the United States fails (to push forward) the peace process," she told the Qatari daily AL-ARAB.

'Ashrawi, who was interviewed in Amman, said European countries are being called upon to "translate into action" their pledges for the realization of peace in the Middle East.

She said the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was playing a role in "guiding" the Palestinian delegation to attend the peace conference's second phase, the bilateral talks, scheduled for December 4 in Washington.

"It's the PLO which makes the decisions, supervises...and guides the Palestinian vessel," she said.

Israel refuses to deal with the PLO, which it considers a terrorist organization.

'Technical' Procedures Cited

JN0212130691 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] The departure of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to Washington, which was scheduled to take place this morning, was postponed until later this evening because the Palestinian delegation has not completed its preparations.

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation, described this delay as being caused by technical procedures. In a statement to our radio, Dr. 'Ashrawi said that the members of the Palestinian delegation were forced to apply for visas from the U.S. Embassy in Amman although they had submitted similar requests to the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem. This has delayed the process of obtaining the visas.

Dr. 'Ashrawi denied reports that Washington had refused to grant entry visas to the Palestinian delegation. The U.S. embassy declined comment on this topic.

For his part, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed that technical matters have forced the Palestinians to delay their departure, and that efforts are under way to settle these problems.

'Arafat's statement came in wake of his talks with Jordanian Prime Minister Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir [passage omitted]

Jerusalem Radio on Delegation's Delay

TA0212091891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks has announced that it will not travel to the United States because the U.S. Administration refused to grant entry visas to some members of the advisory council. Washington has announced that it will not grant visas to some delegates, such as Nabil Sha'th, a senior adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, and Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, the PLO's

spokesman. The two had been part of the group of advisers to the Palestinian delegation at the Madrid conference.

Ghassan al-Khatib, one of the Palestinian delegates in Madrid, stated in Amman: This is a dirty business. The United States had promised to give us the same treatment we were given in Madrid.

The Jordanian delegation will depart for Washington today as planned.

'Abd-al-Shafi, 'Ashrawi on Talks, Israeli Stance

JN0112093091 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Dec 91 pp 1, 12

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, has categorically denied that there has been any change in the composition of the Palestinian delegation, noting that what is being circulated in this regard is groundless.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi indicated that the fact that Faysal al-Husayni is staying in Jerusalem and has not joined the delegation is connected with his work as chairman of the Advisory Council.

In reply to a question on the occupation authorities banning Mrs. Rabihah Hamdan from joining the delegation, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: She is to stand trial at an Israeli court. And this is an issue over which we have no control.

With regard to the readiness of the Palestinian delegation for the second round of negotiations, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: We have drawn up a full-blown negotiating strategy. As for the important studies, documents, and data required, 90 percent of them are now ready.

The head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation termed the Israeli Government's procrastination regarding the talks date as mere prevarication and maneuvering. He added: We discussed with the Jordanian side the Arab state of affairs, and means of enhancing Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, as well as inter-Arab coordination vis-a-vis the bilateral negotiations which will be held in Washington on 4 December.

For her part, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, said that the delegation received a U.S. proposal suggesting that the Washington talks begin with simple issues. However, she made it clear that the delegation will begin with the difficult issues, because Israeli strategy is not to discuss principles.

Dr. 'Ashrawi added that by demonstrating procrastination with regard to participation in the second round of negotiations, Israel seeks to gain time in order to create a procedural crisis in defiance of the will of the two cosponsors of the conference, and this shows a desire to be accorded special treatment. However, Israel will eventually seek a face-saving way out, she noted.

Dr. 'Ashrawi said that the Israeli Government will eventually see itself isolated politically, because the world will not succumb to Israel. She noted that the United States cannot view Israel as a strategic ally. We, she added, cannot condone the cancellation of the sovereignty of the Arab states, nor can we condone the cancellation of the Palestinian side to negotiations.

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said that Israel will send a low-level delegation, comprising men of the second and third echelons, to Washington, because it is waiting for an excuse to go back on the peace process. She affirmed that Israel's failure to attend the bilateral talks would make it pay a heavy price.

Dr. 'Ashrawi accused the Israeli Government of attempting to obliterate the credibility of the Palestinian delegation through its well-orchestrated media campaigns, which aim to create divisions in the ranks of the Palestinian people. She added: There is a weakening of Palestinian opposition in the occupied homeland to the peace conference. She indicated that the intifadah is now engaged in analytical thinking involving the strong involvement of the masses. This, she concluded, prompted Israel to step up its repression and terrorism.

'Ashrawi on Leadership, Autonomy in Territories

JN0212105091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Dec 91 p 12

[By Aman al-Sa'ih]

[Text] Amman—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation, has strongly denied that there will be autonomy in the Palestinian territory in the coming stage. She affirmed that there are various formulas for the transitional period based on the gradual assumption of power whose point of reference and source of legitimacy will be Palestinian. She noted that Israel, which is an occupation force, is trying to assign some Palestinians to posts in the civil administration to impose the Israeli concept and the fait accompli, which is contrary to the situation we seek. In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, Dr. 'Ashrawi added that Israel—which, according to some predictions, will dispatch a delegation below the required level—is now facing a challenge: It either continues the march of peace and coexists with the regional states, or depends on its links with the Western world and on force. We, as Palestinians, should invest this in our interest. The Arabs should take the initiative and utilize the rift in relations between the United States and Israel. In addition, we should strengthen our position by rejecting any formula aimed at imposing the Israeli mentality, which will not prevent us from waging struggle to end the occupation and establish an independent Palestinian state.

Dr. 'Ashrawi said that Israel is still trying to create negative reactions on the part of the Palestinian masses;

it always attempts to create tension and escalation through its repressive practices. These authorities are again using weapons and resorting to violence. Since the Madrid conference, 12 Palestinians have been martyred, and mass arrests have continued. All this aims at making the Palestinians cast doubts on their stands and at their participation in the peace process so that the rejection of peace will come from us, not from them.

Asked about Israel's request to postpone the date of the bilateral talks, Dr. 'Ashrawi said: The cosponsors are the only party authorized to set the date for the talks. The Arab countries cannot submit to the Israeli request whether in terms of venue or date. Israel aims to waste as well as gain time. It wants to negatively affect the march by changing the situation in a way that is contrary to the bases of the march and the principles in accordance with which we entered the peace process.

Dr. 'Ashrawi believes that Israel's concentration on procedural matters entrenches a course and a way of dealing through which it opted for secondary battles. She adds that whenever Israel makes concessions on these issues, it demands concessions in essential matters. The settlement process continues; Israel will only stop this process by receiving rewards. Its game, however, is exposed to all.

The spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation affirmed that Israel will be to blame if it does not come to Washington. It will be placing itself in an impasse and in diplomatic confrontation to undermine the process, derail it, and place barriers and additional obstacles. If it continues with its stubbornness, it will isolate itself politically and diplomatically. If it decides to attend on 4 December, this means its submission; and this will be in our interest.

Dr. 'Ashrawi said: The leadership inside the occupied territory will be part of the overall leadership, and for a limited period; it will not be, as is being said, an alternative leadership for the coming stage. The new leadership should be elected under international supervision and protection and will be in line with Palestinian configuration and legitimacy.

She added: I never sought to lead the Palestinian people; I have no ambition for any post. I am only carrying out my duties, and our confidence in our present leadership is unlimited.

Answering a question on how the members of the Palestinian delegation emerged and how they imposed themselves on the Palestinian and international arenas, Dr. 'Ashrawi said: Our presence emerged gradually. And the intifadah is the decision of the people who produced and highlighted the struggle of the Palestinian individual. This leadership became legitimate; it seized its legitimacy in front of the occupation force. Consequently, this created an international protection for its members. Israel has always expelled, deported, or assassinated any leader whom it feels will threaten its interests.

With regard to Arab coordination, Dr. 'Ashrawi affirmed that this coordination is based on equality and mutual respect. Decisions are made prior to any stand. There is no process to impose a fait accompli on any party. She denied that individual stands are adopted without prior knowledge, despite some gaps that cannot be ignored.

She affirmed that the PLO is the decisionmaker and the one that supervises the talks process, because it is the only side authorized to lead and steer the boat.

Answering a question on her personal life, Dr. 'Ashrawi mother, wife, and politician said: My family is the first to pay the price of my work and struggle. My family, however, fully understands this. My husband and two daughters, Amal and Zaynah, help me and make time for me to see them. They have political as well as family awareness.

Abu-Mazin Discusses Arab-Israeli Talks

LD0112193491 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Rabat, 1 Dec (MAP)—Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee and of the Fatah Central Committee, states that Israel's refusal to attend the Arab-Israeli bilateral talks in Washington on 4 December and the Israeli demand for postponement of these talks until 9 December "fall within the framework of its procrastination aimed at ensuring the lapse of the period the United States has set before agreeing to the guarantees Israel wants for the loan Israel sought prior to the start of the peace talks."

Abu-Mazin was speaking on the program "Man of the Hour" on the Moroccan international channel "Deuxieme." He added: "Some Israeli leaders believe that it is not in Israel's interests to enter the peace process. For this reason they want Israel to procrastinate so that the time limit set before Israel can obtain the American loan, which expires on 23 January, will pass. Israel will then come up with more obstacles."

Abu-Mazin says he believes that Israel cannot now disagree with the U.S. Administration in its efforts to establish peace in the region if the latter deals with Israel firmly. He says that the U.S. Administration is serious in continuing the peace process to its end by bringing pressure to bear on Israel.

He adds that the United States "is talking seriously about peace. We are dealing with this seriousness." He then says: "We cannot guarantee that the United States will continue this seriousness in the future, but all indications we have show that it is serious at the moment."

Abu-Mazin notes: "We must seek the solution of the Palestine question within the sphere of the possible and the balance of power that has developed at this stage. Either we move in this direction or there is nothing to negotiate about."

Speaking of the continued Jewish immigration to Israel and the attitudes of the United States and the USSR to this, Abu-Mazin says: "All the Jews who immigrated to Israel did so under world pressure."

In this regard, he expresses his regret at the attitude of the USSR toward the Jewish immigration, as the USSR has been issuing travel documents valid for three months and for use only for travel to Israel and nowhere else. He points out that following contacts with them, the Soviet officials have decided to stop this immigration by the end of 1992. Abu-Mazin says: "In fact, this decision is not satisfactory to us and is not in our interests, because Jewish immigration would be complete by then."

He says that the Madrid conference is an important juncture in the history of the Palestinian people "because this is the first time they are standing face to face with the Israelis without any mediators or guardians. It is also an important platform through which we can obtain something good for our people and their independence."

Asked what guarantees there are for the establishment of a Palestinian state after the five-year period of autonomous rule, Abu-Mazin says that the U.S. Administration has given guarantees to the Palestinians, on the final status of the occupied Arab territories and the solution of all problems, providing that negotiations begin during the second year of the five-year autonomous rule. He adds: "We do not object to the solution reaching the bounds of confederation. Thus, we have not gone to the talks to obtain only autonomous rule. We are determined that autonomous rule will be transitional, leading to confederation between two independent states—Jordan and Palestine." He adds: "We do not approve of the periods they have set for us."

Replying to a question about the recent statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir that U.S. President George Bush told him during his recent visit to Washington that "the Arabs will be frustrated" if they believed that they can set up a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza strip and part of Jerusalem, Abu-Mazin says that in the U.S. letter on reassurances, which the PLO has received, George Bush says that "the Israeli occupation of all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, must end and authority be transferred in an organized, peaceful manner from the Israeli authorities to the Palestinian authorities. The final solution should be one of a confederation."

In this regard, he refers to the recent statements made by His Majesty King Hassan II in Italy during his talks with Pope John Paul II about the need for solving the Jerusalem problem. He affirms that Americans themselves consider Jerusalem to be part of the occupied territories, saying: "We refuse any changes in the nature of Jerusalem and we will not accept any solution in which Jerusalem does not constitute a part. Jerusalem is two Jerusalems: one Arab and one Jewish. We accept this. We want our Jerusalem to be our capital. Let them do whatever they want with their Jerusalem."

He adds that the Palestinian delegation will participate in the Washington talks independently, based on an agreement with the Americans that provides that the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will split into two delegations after the talks: one Palestinian and one Jordanian.

With regard to differences said to exist among the Arab countries participating in the Israel-Arab talks, Abu-Mazin says that these differences center on the question of whether to accept or not to accept participation in the multisided talks. He expresses his fear that solidarity within the Arab stance would dissipate prior to the Washington talks, or the talks that might follow in Moscow later."

He adds that, irrespective of all the differences, the Arab countries constitute the real support for the Palestinians. He added: We are facing a common enemy, and for this reason we hedge our bets on the Arab brothers, despite all our differences or conflicts, because what he is facing today is much greater than differences among the brothers."

Abu-Mazin points out that "there are now normal relations between the Palestinianss and countries of the Arab Gulf. However, there are still clouds looming over the horizon. We hope they will soon dissipate. Many matters have begun to return to their normal conditions gradually."

With regard to the role of the Arab Maghreb Union in the peace talks, Abu-Mazin says that the PLO sees the Arab Maghreb Unions' member countries' participation in the peace talks as observers as something that could bolster their position.

With regard to the recent position taken by the Israeli Labor Party, in which it recognizes the national rights of the Palestinian people, Abu-Mazin says: "There has been a change inside Israel and in the attitude of the Jewish community in America, where 88 percent of the members of the community feel that Israel should halt its settlement policy." He adds that there has been a radical change in the stand of the Israelis, especially in the Labour Party, which founded Israel. He affirms that this development deserves attention because there are some in Israel who realize the need for peace at the time when Shamir rejects peace.

Tel Aviv—Palestinian Plan 'Ignores' Autonomy

TA2911125591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Report by Udi Segal]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Palestinian delegation is carrying working papers which detail the Palestinian position on the interim stage. These completely ignore the autonomy plan as presented in the Camp David accords. The Palestinian plan has five main points. They

are demanding that the interim stage not become permanent but be a fixed period of time after which a permanent solution—which they say includes an Israeli withdrawal from the territories—will be achieved. The Palestinians are therefore demanding in their position paper that during the interim period there be no de facto actions that will create a permanent situation. In other words, with the start of that stage, the construction of settlements and confiscation of lands will stop. The Palestinians are demanding that the Palestinian regime have legal status. They are also demanding that with the transfer of power, they receive sovereignty over the land and natural resources and over the inhabitants living in the area. [passage omitted]

'Arafat—Palestinians 'Committed' to Peace Process

NC2911170891 Paris AFP in English 1033 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Tunis, Nov 29 (AFP) - The Palestinians are committed to the Middle East peace process although it is bound to be "long and hard," PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said Friday ahead of the next round of bilateral Arab-Israeli talks.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation chief said the U.S.-inspired peace talks launched in Madrid on October 30 presented "an historic opportunity that must not be missed."

"The process will be long and hard," he warned.

"But Palestinians, after almost half a century of militancy to secure the right to a dignified life on their land like all the other peoples of the world, have the courage to take part constructively in the peace process."

'Arafat, in a message to mark a United Nations day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, said the PLO itself was playing a constructive role and remained committed despite Israel's conditions for the talks.

The organisation has not been directly involved in the peace process, at the insistence of Israel, but the Palestinian negotiators have worked in coordination with the PLO.

The Palestinians, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria have accepted a U.S. invitation to resume bilateral talks in Washington on December 4, while Israel has asked for them to start five days later.

'Arafat Message to UN Committee on Solidarity Day

LD2911194891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Nov 91

["Message" from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, described as president of the State of Palestine, to the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] To Her Excellency Ambassador Aqua Claude Diallo, chairwoman of the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian Rights: Ladies and gentlemen, greetings.

On the occasion of your celebrations marking the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, I have the pleasure of addressing your excellencies and the other members of your respected committee my best brotherly greetings and most sincere heartfelt wishes, wishing you continuous success in your noble endeavor to implement the UN resolutions and the will of the international community by allowing our people to regain and exercise their national and inalienable rights. [Passage omitted on thanks and praise]

Your Excellency Madame Ambassador, ladies and gentlemen: Your marking of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People this year comes when our Palestinian issue is passing through a fateful and decisive time. As you know, the peace conference was opened in Madrid on 30 October on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace under the auspices of the United States and the Soviet Union, and with the participation of all the parties concerned in the Middle East conflict. On this occasion, we have to express our deep appreciation for the persistent and constructive efforts made by the two chairmen of the conference to get this peace process under way.

Honorable gentlemen, you are also aware that the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people, made a positive, constructive, and distinguished contribution to facilitating the convening of that conference, despite the unfair conditions, persistent provocations, and dangerous obstacles that were created by the Israeli Government, aimed at obstructing the convening of the conference. Our agreement to participate in the conference came in response to our people's desire for peace, which they expressed in the resolutions of the Palestine National Council's 19th and 20th sessions as well as in the resolutions of the Palestine Central Council. The agreement to participate also came in response to the general international climate, which is moving toward the establishment of a new world order where security, peace, and stability will prevail on the basis of the UN conventions, justice, the protection of peoples' rights to freedom, security, and peace, and the protection of human rights.

Meanwhile, our Palestinian people inside our occupied Palestinian territories continue their overwhelming national intifadah and their legitimate struggle, which is sanctioned by international conventions. They seek to end the Israeli occupation and bring about a just peace in Palestine and the region founded on the principle on which UN Resolutions 242 and 338 are based, enunciating the unlawfulness of the seizure of land belonging to others by force. Meanwhile, despite the commencement of the peace process and the convening of the peace conference in Madrid, the Israeli Government continues

to implement its hostile and repressive policies and practices against our Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

In this connection come the repeated Israeli aggressions and air raids against our people in the places where they are present in southern Lebanon, the escalation of the iron fist policy and the Israeli repression against our people in the occupied Palestinian territories, the escalation of the fever of Israeli settlement in the Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories, the attraction of Jewish emigrants by force from the Soviet Union and other countries of eastern Europe and Ethiopia, and their installation in new settlements in the occupied territories. With all this, Israel is violating all the UN resolutions and the will of the international community, which view these settlements as illegal and an obstacle to peace.

In addition to this, the latest Knesset decision on annexing the occupied Golan Heights comes as a provocative action and an Israeli defiance, not only of the parties concerned in the conflict in the region but also of the cochairmen of the conference and the whole international community, as well as the UN resolutions which consider the annexation of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights as null and void. In addition to this, the latest act of aggression against the Jerusalem religious court on the afternoon of 18 November by a joint force of Israeli police, intelligence, and border guards is another defiance and a new provocative action by the Israeli Government.

The convening of the peace conference in Madrid represents the beginning of a difficult path toward achieving a noble aim, which is the establishment of a just peace in the region on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the right of our people to self-determination. It is an important historic opportunity that must not be missed and must not be faced with attempts to obstruct and foil it and provocative actions.

Our Palestinian people, who have struggled for about half a century for their right to have a free, independent, and dignified life on the territory of their homeland, like the other peoples of the region and the world, have the material and moral courage to deal in a positive and constructive way with this opportunity. Security, peace, and stability are twins with right, justice, and equity. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Receives Iraqi Foreign Minister in Tunis

JN3011192191 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, received tonight Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn in the Tunisian capital, Tunis.

They reviewed Arab and world developments, primarily the situation in the occupied Arab territories in light of the escalation of the valiant Palestinian intifadah in the face of Zionist occupation.

The meeting was attended by Iraq's ambassador to Tunisia and the head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry.

DFLP-PFLP Communique Urges 4 Dec Strike

NC3011154391 Paris AFP in English 1512 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Damascus, Nov 30 (AFP) - Two of the three leading movements within the PLO on Saturday appealed to Palestinians inside and outside the Israeli-occupied territories to stage a strike December 4, the day bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks are due to resume in Washington.

A joint communique issued here by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine of George Habash and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine of Nayif Hawatimah urged "Palestinian masses to express their rejection of the American- Israeli plot to liquidate the Palestinian cause and to go on strike and carry black flags on the day the negotiations resume."

"The agenda imposed by Washington as a basis for Palestinian- Israeli negotiations calls for the application of the Shamir plan for administrative autonomy and ignores basic questions on the implementation of international resolutions," the statement charged.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said he is prepared to discuss limited self-government for Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip but has ruled out the eventual creation of an independent state in the territories.

Habash and Hawatimah also called for "an intensification of the intifadah (the four-year-old revolt against Israeli occupation), a strengthening in the role of the Unified Leadership (of the uprising) and the preservation of Palestinian unity."

Habash's PFLP on November 6 suspended its participation on the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization in protest at the PLO's acceptance of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to attend the opening session of the peace conference in Madrid on October 30.

The third leading PLO component, Fatah, is headed by executive committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who has backed the U.S. and Soviet-sponsored Middle East initiative.

Demonstrators Reject U.S.-Israeli 'Plot'

NC3011200291 Paris AFP in English 1943 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, Nov 30 (AFP) - One hundred Palestinian masked men demonstrated Saturday in the occupied West bank town of Bethlehem against the Middle East peace conference, Arab sources said.

The marchers, carrying placards reading "No to the partition of Palestine", were demonstrating in response to a call by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

Earlier the PFLP, in a joint communique with the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), appealed to Palestinians inside and outside the Israeli-occupied territories to stage a strike December 4, the day bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks are due to resume in Washington.

The two groups, key components of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, urged the "Palestinian masses to express their rejection of the American-Israeli plot to liquidate the Palestinian cause and to go on strike and carry black flags on the day the negotiations resume." [passage omitted covered in referent item]

Car Belonging to PNC Speaker's Son Torched

TA2911191291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Unidentified persons early this morning torched the car of Bassam al-Sa'ih, son of the speaker of the Palestine National Council, while it was parked in front of his home in East Jerusalem. The police arrived on the scene and launched an investigation. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that scores of Palestinian figures, inside and outside the territories, including Faysal al- Husayni, Dr. Sari Nusaybah, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, and Knesset member Hashim Mahamid came today to al-Sa'ih's home and voiced their strong condemnation at this incident. Police sources said that the police believe that the motive behind this incident is the position expressed by Bassam al-Sa'ih recently on the political action committees following his resignation from these committees.

Former AL-FAJR Journalist To Start New Daily

TA0212074891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Intensive consultations are under way to form a joint stock company that will publish a new daily newspaper in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that journalist Radi al-Jara'i, a member of the advisory council to the peace talks, who has recently been dismissed from his job, is behind this proposal. Our correspondent adds that press circles in the territories are voicing disappointment over the decision by the owner of AL-FAJR newspaper, Paul Ajlouny, to dismiss seven employees.

OPEC Affairs

OPEC's 90th Ministerial Conference Meets 26 Nov

LD2611234291 Vienna OPECNA in English 2108 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Vienna, 26 Nov. 91 (OPECNA)—The 90th meeting of the OPEC ministerial conference adjourned its deliberations here tonight until 10:00 hours GMT Wednesday. The ministers, who met in closed session for over four hours, earlier listened to reports by the organization's secretary general Dr Subroto, and the report of the Economic Commission Board (ECB).

The end-of-year regular meeting of the conference is aiming to forge a production agreement for the first three months of next year.

It will also discuss the formulation of a common stand for oil producers on the environmental issue.

Agreement Reached on Production Ceiling

LD2711175291 Vienna OPECNA in English 1703 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Vienna, 27 Nov. 91 (OPECNA)—At the end today of the 90th meeting of the conference of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the following press release was issued:

90th meeting of the OPEC conference

Vienna, Austria, 26th to 27th November, 1991

The 90th meeting of the conference of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), was held in Vienna, Austria, from 26th to 27th November, 1991.

The conference unanimously elected HE [His Excellency] Professor Jibril Aminu, minister of petroleum resources of Nigeria and head of its delegation, as its president. HE Yusuf Bin-'Umayr Bin-Yusuf, minister of petroleum and mineral resources of the United Arab Emirates and head of its delegation, was unanimously elected alternate president.

The conference appointed HE Dr. Gonzalo Plaza, governor for Venezuela, as chairman of the board of governors for the year 1992, and HE Abdellatif Khelil, governor for Algeria, to be alternate chairman for the same period.

The conference reviewed the secretary general's report, the report of the ministerial monitoring committee on the monitoring of member countries' production and supply and the report of the economic commission board.

Taking into account the prevailing market situation, especially in the fourth quarter of 1991, and the expected developments in the first quarter of 1992, the conference decided to keep the OPEC production ceiling agreed upon in September, 1991. In addition, the conference reaffirmed its commitment to the July 1990 agreement, in its entirety, including the achievement of the OPEC basket minimum reference price of 21 U.S. dollars per barrel.

To this effect, the conference decided to maintain close contact among the ministers in order to monitor and evaluate the supply and demand balance, including additional supplies coming from Iraq and Kuwait, as well as the

possibility of the reduction of oil supplies from other producing countries, especially the Soviet Union. In light of the foregoing, the conference resolved to convene a ministerial monitoring committee meeting on 12th February, 1992, in Geneva, to decide on the production ceiling for the second quarter of 1992. The president, in consultation with his colleagues, will convene an earlier meeting of the ministerial monitoring committee, if market conditions warrant such a line of action.

The conference also gave further directives on the implementation of the international seminar on the environment, which OPEC will hold in April, 1992. The seminar should provide a forum for informed discussion on the environment by invited participants from OPEC member countries, other oil-producing countries, oil companies, non-governmental organizations, international research institutions, and leaders of business, commerce and industrial communities. The seminar should also bring forth immediate and long-term perspectives on the issue of the environment.

The conference decided to commission a study in Kuwait and vicinity on the level and effect of pollution due to the burning of oil wells in Kuwait.

The conference approved the budget of the organization for the year 1992.

The conference expressed its sincere appreciation to the government of the Federal Republic of Austria and to the authorities of the City of Vienna for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

The conference passed resolutions which will be published on 27th December, 1991, after ratification by member countries.

The next ordinary meeting of the conference will be convened in Vienna on 20th May, 1992, after the ministerial monitoring committee meeting on 19th May, 1992.

Conference President on Price Prospects

LD2811174191 Vienna OPECNA in English 1604 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Vienna, 28 Nov. 91 (OPECNA)—OPEC Conference President Prof. Jibril Aminu said here Wednesday that oil prices should firm up in the first quarter of 1992, although "it was not sure" whether the organization's minimum reference price of 21 dollars a barrel would be reached.

Aminu, Nigerian petroleum resources minister, said that the increase in prices "would continue on from the trend we have noticed in the fourth quarter when they did indeed reach the minimum reference price for a few days in October."

At a press briefing after the 90th meeting of the OPEC Conference, the newly-elected OPEC president gave his views on the decision to roll-over the September production accord into the first quarter of 1992. "We reviewed the market through the market monitoring committee and based on that review we decided to maintain production at its present level (23.65 million b/d [barrels per day])," he affirmed.

The minister said that some important considerations led to this decision. "First of all, prices had not met the OPEC minimum reference price of 21 dollars per barrel, so there was no good reason to increase the ceiling from what was agreed in September.

"On the other hand, prices had not dropped to warrant a reduction in the ceiling. There are signs of a tightening in first quarter 1992 supplies. So, along with the situation in the Soviet Union and the fact that Iraq and Kuwait have not yet returned to the market, the decision to retain the September production level was quiet sound," he added.

However, Aminu said that moving from the first to the second quarter of 1992, "the market is more difficult to determine as there are so many unknowns." He said: "We don't know if and when Iraq will return to the market. The Soviet and Kuwaiti situation is also still unclear and we also don't know how severe the winter will be before the second quarter, or whether there will be any production accidents." The minister noted that the OPEC ministerial monitoring committee would reconvene in February to take more concrete decisions on the second quarter.

He described the OPEC talks as "very successfull," stating: "We have done those things we set out to do."

Concerning Nigeria;s domestic operations, Aminu said that oil production had been given a boost by the recent commissioning of the 250,000 b/d Edop field. "Nigeria will be producing two million b/d in the first quarter of next year as a result of the Edop field," he maintained.

Meanwhile, the minister said that the recent meeting in Paris of five OPEC member countries, who produce light crude, was not in any way against the overall interests of OPEC. "There is nothing that will be done to undermine OPEC," he told reporters. Ministers from the light cruise OPEC members—Nigeria, Algeria, Gabon, Libya and Venezuela—had been holding informal talks aimed at gathering more information on the market situation, said the minister. He said that whatever differences arose "will have to be resolved within the framework of OPEC."

Aminu said that it was in the interest of the organization that the price of sweet crudes increased, pointing out that the this development would mean "an enhanced prize" for the OPEC basket of crudes.

In answer to another question, the minister said that the challenge facing OPEC was to "maintain the unity and sense of purpose, to continue to supply oil to the world and to get fair returns for our efforts."

Algeria

Fundamentalists Attack Border Post, Kill 3 Guards

LD2911130391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] A National Defense Ministry statement handed today to APS said that following the reports issued by the national gendarmerie command on 27 November 1991 about the presence of armed men in El Oued, a border guard post in the area of Guemar, north of Oued Souf, in the northeastern part of Algeria, was subjected at about 0200 today, 29 November 1991, to an attack by an armed group consisting of 60 gunmen .

According to the statement, three members of the border guards were killed as a result of this assault, and one of the attackers was seriously wounded. The attackers succeeded in fleeing after seizing some arms. In conclusion, the statement pointed out that units of the national gendarmerie and special forces of the National Popular Army have mounted a rigorous campaign in search of the attackers.

Authorities Discover Arms Cache

LD2911133291 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1240 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Algiers, 29 Nov (TAP)—Last Wednesday the Algerian security authorities announced the discovery of a cache containing weapons, ammunition, and chemicals for the manufacture of conventional bombs, as well as a written plan of the positions of the gendarmerie and border police posts against which terrorist fundamentalist groups were planning to carry out terrorist operations. The authorities added that they were pursuing a 20-strong gang of fundamentalists, members of the organization of the Islamic Labor Union [al-Naqabah al-Islamiyah li'l-Amal], led by a person called Tayeb El Afghani, who visited Afghanistan several times to be trained there in terrorist operations. The authorities pointed out that reinforcements have been sent to the area where the terrorist gang is located, which is the area of Oued Souf, which is [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Launch Manhunt

LD3011143391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] The National Defense Ministry yesterday issued a communique stating that an armed attack took place at dawn yesterday at El Oued against a border guard post at Guemar. The attack was launched by an armed group of 60 people. Djilani Soultani, our correspondent at El Oued, reports:

[Soultani] Some of the towns and villages of El Oued Province witnessed during the weekend a deployment of national gendarmerie. This was done as part of the search for an armed group, said to belong to the jihad fundamentalists. It is also said that the group leader was Tayeb El Afghani and that he had succeeded in disarming one of the national gendarmerie patrols and in fleeing to an unknown place. The gendarmerie found in his house in Bellila quarter, in El Magrane municipality, handwritten maps showing the most important security posts in El Oued Province, as well as conventional military munitions. Three of the suspects were also arrested on the same day. It was also possible to identify a large number of the elements of this group, which has been planning terrorist operations since last June.

Eyewitnesses have stated that having tied up the four members of the gendarmerie, Tayeb El Afghani boarded the national gendarmerie vehicle and roamed the streets of El Magrane municipality firing shots in the air and calling for jihad.

Last Thursday, the gendarmerie forces succeeded in arresting the former mayor of Guemar, who had been in hiding since the proclamation of the state of siege. It is said that his arrest was closely connected with the attack by about 60 armed men on the Guemar border guard post. The armed men succeeded in killing three members of the armed forces, seizing a quantity of weapons, and then fleeing. The areas of El Magrane and Guemar will remain under a state of emergency under the gendarmerie and the National Army until the arrest of this group.

Last night, many citizens heard several explosions of hand grenades in the capital of the province. These are said to have been thrown at the houses of some officials. The search operations and state of emergency will continue in these areas until the unmasking of all elements of the group.

Ghozali Discusses French Ties, Elections, Libya

LD0112165791 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1100 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali by announcer Francois-Henri de Virieu and correspondents Albert du Roy, Francoise Joly, and Jean-Pierre Colombani at the El Djazair Hotel in Algiers on 30 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] [De Virieu] Good day. We are today in Algiers in the company of Prime Minister Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali. Why Algeria? It is because it is here that we find some keys to our French problems and particularly the key to our present number-one problem, that of immigration. [passage omitted]

[Colombani] A word on relations with France before dealing with the problem of immigration. What do you specifically expect from France today? Is it simply immediate and urgent aid which corresponds to an emergency situation, or is it a longer process of aid to the Algerian democratic process which does not perhaps concern only France but all the democracies of West Europe?

[Ghozali] Aid is a word I don't like very much. Algeria is not seeking aid because Algeria has its own possibilities, and it has been endowed by nature—one has to say that. This is in fact the responsibility of all those who managed the country since independence, because according to the means at our disposal we should have certainly been able to achieve ten times more than we have, although there have been achievements. Algeria has the means for its own development. And when it addresses itself to foreign partners—and what I say here I also say to our French partners—we would like to be considered as partners and not as aid seekers. There is a difference between he who knocks at your door and he who is deprived. [passage omitted]

[Colombani] One word on a particular point. A summit of the French-speaking world was recently held in Paris. There were African countries in attendance, but also Canada, Romania, Bulgaria, and Cambodia; Algeria was absent from this summit despite you being the second [not further specified] French-speaking country in the world? [passage omitted]

[Ghozali] It is not surprising to see that Algeria, which is the most important country using the French language [as heard], has never participated in the, let's say, events of the French-speaking world.

[Colombani] Why?

[Ghozali] Because Algeria is the only country [in the French-speaking world] which has had a particular experience. There is a very particular relationship between Algeria and the French language. Why? Because during 130 years of colonization—and this did not happen in Tunisia or in Morocco or in Egypt—the mother tongue, the national language was used and treated as a foreign language. It should be recalled that in addition to the fact that Algerians were not able to get into school, secondary school, or college during the colonial era, the Algerians were not able to have access to their own language.

[Colombani] So the French-speaking world structure as it is does not satisfy you, does not suit you.

[Ghozali] We are still in a phase, even 30 years after independence, of trying to recover our national language. It is not a rejection of the French language. One should say that there is this very particular relationship which is profoundly marked by the fact that there was an association between a colonial period, the occupation of Algeria and the exclusion of the mother tongue, the national language, the Arab language.

[Colombani] Immigration is a very sensitive problem in France. It is also an Algerian problem in a certain way. First, do you understand the reactions to this problem in France, reactions of fear at the idea that a new wave of immigration could take place, for instance?

[Ghozali] This is the object of the fear. The fear should not concern Algeria because as far as we are concerned, we have stopped the flow of emigration since 1973. [passage omitted]

[Colombani] While Francoise Joly is arriving to join us, just a short question, Prime Minister: Are you in favor of granting voting rights for local elections to Algerian nationals who live in France?

[Ghozali] This issue seems to me to be one of the means to end this temptation of politicians to exploit the situation of the immigrants for electoral purposes. This is my point of view.

[Joly] Mr. Prime Minister, my first question is linked to a highly topical issue: Three people were killed in the past 24 hours in Algeria on the Algerian-Tunisian border, three border guards were killed by an Islamic commando, according to your Defense Ministry. There have also been people injured in a district of Algiers. Is there a renewed atmosphere of violence in Algeria? Can you guarantee that general elections will still be held on 26 December?

[Ghozali] We have done everything, this government has done everything to make sure that the elections take place. It will continue to do everything to make sure that the elections take place because we deem this a compulsory step in solving the country's problems.

Yesterday's tragedy, which is not something new, saddens us all and brings back the question of whether a democracy which is being born, and Algeria is just that, can be born and prosper while certain tendencies persist among the political parties—without me pointing to one particular party—of thinking in terms of using violence to come to power or, as violence can take many forms, to use violence to maintain power. This is a question currently facing all Algerians, and not only the government.

[Joly] What means do you plan to use to contain the violence?

[Ghozali] First of all we must refer to the desire of the Algerian people. Whatever one may say, the Algerians are a peaceful people, ambitious, but they want to live in peace. The Algerians do not accept the idea of using violence. Comforted by this conviction, the government has from the beginning of its formation set itself as a political objective the organization of the first free elections in a pluralist context by the end of the year. [passage omitted] The government has done what it had to do: Prepare laws for clean, free, and honest elections, and it has accomplished this through dialogue with all representatives of political groups and of society. We have assembled all guarantees of absolute neutrality on the part of the administration. The administration will be neutral and watched at every step, because the candidates' representatives will be at the polling stations, involved in the transportation of results, and involved at the level of vote counting.

[Joly] So you confirm the date of the pluralist elections for 26 December?

[Ghozali] Yes, 26 December. There are however other means as well. We hear officials say that perhaps they will not participate [in the elections], and if they decide not to participate they will use all means to prevent the holding of the elections. To prevent the holding of the elections within a legal framework will not do. The government will use all means to prevent others from preventing the holding of general elections.

It must be said once and for all that Algeria must be given to the Algerians. In order to solve this country's problems, the Algerians must designate their assembly and their government. Without this, nothing can be done because the problems we have are economic and there are social aspects stemming from them. There is a lot to be done, an enormous number of things to be done. For this to be accomplished, a government stemming from the will of the people is needed.

[De Virieu] But if the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] persists in its decision to boycott the elections, which is better for Algeria, to have elections boycotted by the FIS and an assembly whose legitimacy would be contested, or to have the FIS participate in the elections with the risk that it would win a majority in the assembly?

[Ghozali] Who tells you that if a party boycotts the elections the elections would not be contested? What matters to me is to know how many Algerians participate in the elections. That is the most important thing. I would like all parties to clearly announce that they will participate. If I look at the number of candidates, I see a considerable increase compared with June; there are 55 percent more candidates belonging to all parties.

[De Virieu] How many candidates for 430 constituencies?

[Ghozali] Approximately 13.5 candidates for each constituency, or a total of over 5,000 candidates, with 1,100 independent ones. [passage omitted]

[Joly] Mr. Prime Minister, to go back to what Francois de Virieu was saying, would elections without the FIS be credible?

[Ghozali] It is the results that will answer this question. It is the number of Algerians who vote that will say whether or not these elections are credible.

[De Virieu] What level of abstention would be catastrophic?

[Ghozali] What would be catastrophic would be to allow one party to prevent an election, a democratic process.

[De Virieu] Yes, of course, everybody agrees on this.

[Ghozali] What would be catastrophic would be for one party, whichever it may be, to be able to impose the law of violence instead of the laws of the Republic.

[Joly] If the tension were to increase in the coming days and terrorist acts become more frequent, can one envision the Army acting to restore order, to guarantee the holding of these elections?

[Ghozali] The Army has, until now, played a role. It must not be forgotten that the national army is one that is born of the Free Army. At the moment the best part of the training personnel is made up of officers who were fighters in the war.

[Joly] This legitimacy by blood is very strong?

[Ghozali] Yes, on the one hand, and on the other hand the Army is an institution which, de facto, is a guarantor of the smooth running of the government institutions. It withdrew from politics, but the Army is an institution that must be maintained and protected, and it is not surprising that those who turn to violence begin by trying to affect the Army.

[De Virieu] In Algeria, is the second in command in the government's protocol the minister of defense and not the minister of foreign affairs?

[Ghozali] Well, here everything depends on seniority, because last year it was the foreign minister who was above the defense minister in the protocol. [passage omitted]

At this moment Algeria annually imports goods worth $10 billion. It has a solvent economy, but because of a mishandling of the debt problem, it is going through a treasury crisis which has a direct effect on the life of the citizens, because there is no money and therefore no medicines, for example. [passage omitted]

[Joly] Will you be the one to promote denationalization, privatization?

[Ghozali] No. Let us say that I am not a fan of denationalization. I tackle the matter in a framework which is not ideological. What interests me is that all creative forces of our country should be brought to contribute, and in this context the public sector has a lot to contribute. It has been traumatized and mishandled; the private sector itself has a lot to contribute. I do not believe in applying the thinking held by the World Bank or the IMF, which consider privatization as a panacea. I refuse to tackle the matter from an ideological angle. Economics have their laws and rules and specifics related to each country.

[Joly] Do you not fear a social explosion which would threaten the democratic process in which you have engaged?

[Ghozali] I do not fear this would happen if I manage to convince Algerians first of all of what they have in hand. I take this opportunity to say it: the Algerians are hard-working people, but they can be bad if they think they are being deceived, that the truth is being concealed from them. Tell the Algerians the truth, the best and the worst of it, and you will obtain from them not miracles,

because that is not what I am talking about, but many, many things which are perfectly up to the challenges facing them.

[De Virieu] Thank you, Francoise Joly. I would like Albert du Roy to come and ask you questions, Mr. Prime Minister.

[Du Roy] Mr. Prime Minister, would you consider your project—which you have just explained to make an appeal to all Algerians—to be as strong and stirring as that made by the Islamists?

[Ghozali] Well, you speak of the Islamists, and you know, in this situation it is not just the Islamists that use certain arguments. I think that it is incorrect to attribute what is taking place in Algeria at the moment to Islam. It is totally incorrect. There are economic problems. There are social problems. There are one and a half million unemployed. There are people who have been marginalized. In situations like this there will always be political leaders, whether in the name of Islam or other things, who will exploit people's misery and distress. [passage omitted]

[Du Roy] This relates to a question that I wanted to ask you. It is a question that is being asked a lot in France and Europe in general. It could shock, Algerians especially, but as it is asked it is better to ask it frankly. Some in France say that Islam is an archaic religion that is incompatible with modernity, as well as democracy. What do you think of this judgement?

[Ghozali] Well, I would quite simply like to point out that this country has been Muslim for 14 centuries. There has, for some time, been a tendency in Europe to try to create some sort of confrontation between the Muslim and Judeo-Christian civilizations, as you very well know. This is not innocent. There are many ulterior [words indistinct] for this criticism. This means that the discussion of Islam in Europe has been delinquent. Quite clearly, what you have just said in no way reflects our beliefs.

[Du Roy] Nonetheless, there are no democracies among the Muslim countries.

[Ghozali] There are no democracies among countries that are underdeveloped or Muslim. Algeria is a Muslim country, and there is democracy.

[Du Roy] Young; it is not yet perfect. The equality, for instance, of rights between men and women, where does it stand today?

[Ghozali] But Islam support the rights of men and women. Could you give me any figures? I have been given some. If we speak of Algeria it is not to look at things through rose-tinted spectacles, but in a country like Algeria, where it has often been said, even in France, that the Algerian woman is badly treated and so on, I would like to point out to you that in the age of colonization there were hardly any Algerian girls at school. Now, half of Algerians, half of the 7 million children at school and college are women. There is something that is not generally known: Of the 65,000 who receive a bachelor's degree each year in Algeria, 51 percent are women. There are sectors that are beginning to be—I will not say invaded, because this word has been used in a derogatory way in relation to the immigrants—where women are beginning to be the majority. In medicine. In teaching, for example; in all the towns 65 to 70 percent of teachers are women. Looking at universities, in the sciences such as mathematics, Algerian women already account for 50 percent. In law as well, the Algerian woman is beginning to...

[Du Roy, interrupting] I would like to go back to this question of democracy in another form. When countries in the process of development ask for temporary aid on an economic, monetary, financial, or cultural front, from developed countries, do you think that it is normal that these developed countries which are being called upon should set conditions on the underdeveloped or developing countries? Do you, for example, think it normal that this aid is only given on condition that the country aids progress toward democracy? For example, the reward set at La Baule.

[Ghozali] Those who give aid—and we must first know whether it really is aid—are those who have the right to set conditions. We are not in this situation.

[Du Roy] I am not just speaking of Algeria but globally.

[Ghozali] Algeria is not a country asking for aid.

[Du Roy] But I am speaking of your opinion on this policy.

[Ghozali] One can be led into, not in only in issues of aid, making these relations with other countries conditional on the implementation of a democratic process, but is this really sincere? Is it really this that is sought? Let us take Algeria as an example. It is normal that Algeria's partners should hope that democracy is being installed, but it is not enough to talk about it. You are well aware of the close relationship between economics and politics. I said earlier that the problems in Algeria are fundamentally economic.

[Du Roy] And democracy depends on development.

[Ghozali] There is a dialectic between the two, if you like. But at the same time, I said that these problems will only be solved when there is a national assembly recognized by the Algerians as theirs, a government that they like or do not like but which they consider to be the result of their public choice. But on the other hand this process is in a certain way influenced by the effects of the economic and financial problems. Mrs. Joly mentioned this earlier. [passage omitted]

[Du Roy] I would like to tackle another topic, the evolution of the Middle East problem, the problem between Israel and Palestine. Concerning the Madrid

conference, what is your opinion of the Madrid conference and its continuation in a few days, if everything goes well?

[Ghozali] It will be a very long process...

[Du Roy, interrupting] ...satisfied with it?

[Ghozali] It is too soon to rejoice, but I will tell you immediately that we encouraged the Palestinians to participate in this exercise. We don't want to be no more or no less Palestinian than the Palestinians. What interests us is the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, the right to a state, and here is an opportunity for that. At any rate, one should take the initiators of such a process at their word. We are for a peaceful settlement of the problem, and that is why we encouraged the Palestinians to go and to at least not let themselves be singled out as those who refuse dialogue and a peaceful solution. This will be a long process because we can clearly see that the Israelis do not show willingness to move forward.

[Du Roy] Would you recognize the Israelis' right to a state in exchange for the recognition of the Palestinians' right to a state?

[Ghozali] If you take a country like Algeria, it has no problem with Israel. We don't have borders, nothing. The only problem we have with the Israelis is the Palestinians—the Palestinians who have been thrown out of their homes, who have been oppressed for a long time, for decades, who are deprived of their homeland, deprived of their land. This is the only problem we have.

[Du Roy] But you admit that in these negotiations, the Israelis also have the right to obtain the ncessary guarantees for their security.

[Ghozali] But the Arabs and the Palestinians have made their view known on this for a long time. Because what is this exercise if not the implementation of the UN resolutions, and the UN resolutions recognize Israel's right to security?

[Du Roy] Well, what is preventing the Arab countries from having normal relations with Israel, like Egypt, for instance?

[Ghozali] As long as the Palestinian issue is not settled... anyway, as for a country like Algeria, there cannot be normal relations with Israel as long as there is an oppressed Arab people deprived of their homeland and thrown out of their land; there cannot be normal relations with those who are responsible for such a situation.

[Du Roy] Is Algeria, which is democratizing itself, thus modernizing itself to feel at ease in the Arab world?

[Ghozali] Nobody feels at ease in the Arab world. The Arab world is in a very difficult situation, and not only since the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

[Du Roy] I would like to talk about another government—well, it is really a question concerning what is going on with Libya at the moment. As you know, accusations are being made against a certain number of Libyan figures close to the Libyan regime concerning their involvement in two murderous attacks against planes. If the inquiry proves the guilt of these men, their complicity and that of the Libyan Government, would you admit that the countries concerned, that is Great Britain, the United States, and France, can take sanctions against Libya?

[Ghozali] Well, as you know, the inquiry into the two aircraft, the UTA and Lockerbie, has not reached definite conclusions. We are extremely disturbed by the hostile climate developing around Libya at the moment. Our position is clear and always has been concerning, let's say, terrorist attacks, considering the fact that Libya... [changes thought] when first conclusions are not definite. Libya absolutely declares its willingness to cooperate in order to determine responsibility.

[Du Roy, interrupting] One should not be satisfied only with declarations; one also has to act consequently.

[Ghozali] One has to act, but the climate or rather the measures which particularly aim at the Libyan people disturb us enormously. First, it is a fraternal country, a neighboring country; it is a member of the Arab Maghreb Union. We cannot be indifferent to what might happen to it. And as a member of the international community, we are very attached to the implementation of international law. Every member of the international community should contribute to the respect of the law. But there are methods which we condemn: threats and actions which punish people. We are absolutely against those. What is going on at the moment in Iraq is not an honor for mankind. There, a whole people are suffering from destitution, hunger, and diseases because the people are being punished in the name of the international community or international law. Is this the new order? We don't think it is. [passage omitted]

Legislature Approves Demonstrations Bill

LD0212003991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Excerpts] After many sessions and open dicussions, the people's deputies of the National People's Assembly have approved the assemblies and demonstrations bill. Agreement was reached after several amendments to the bill were introduced. Here are details from correspondent Su'ad Sarhan:

[Sarhan] The bill on assemblies and public demonstrations was put to the deputies for approval today. The bill was amended following last month's discussion. [passage omitted]

The second package put forward at this session concerns a bill on the role of the national people's army in protecting national security. Interior Minister Larbi

Belkhier spoke in support of the bill. [passage omitted] This bill seeks to determine the conditions for the national people's army's role in protecting public security in cases other than the exceptional cases specified in the Constitution. It envisions use of the Army by the prime minister, after consultation with the competent civil and military authorities, in these areas: the protection and rescue of citizens, the protection of regional security, and the preservation of security and the essential freedoms in the country.

These are the reasons behind the government's proposed legislation authorizing use of the Army to preserve public order without resorting to a state of emergency. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Message To UN on Palestinians

NC2911183491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] The United Nations, 29 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has emphasized that a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian issue is the only viable approach to establishing peace in the Middle East region which would bring about stability and security and allow the region to dedicate its resources to development and building its societies.

This came in a message he addressed today to the UN committee on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people [organization name as received], on the occasion marking the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. In the message, the president maintained that holding the Madrid conference was an outstanding starting point for enhancing sincere international efforts to establish a permanent peace in the Middle East on the basis of the real substance of UN Security Council Resolutions 424 and 338; that is, to return the occupied Arab territories to their legitimate owners in exchange for peace, security, and stability for all the peoples and countries of the region.

In his message, President Mubarak appealed to all parties involved in the peace process to seize the favorable opportunity and use it as a starting point for reaching a just solution for the Palestinian problem. He said the international community must support and encourage the parties concerned to overcome the obstacles hindering a peaceful solution. He voiced Egypt's confidence in the international community's capability to shoulder its historic responsibility in this context and to provide favorable circumstances for a just and lasting settlement based on respect for the principles of international law, the UN Charter and resolutions, and on recognizing the lawful political and national rights of the Palestinian people.

The president concluded that the principles on which the United Nations was founded, primarily the principle of all peoples' rights to self-determination, must be applied equally to all the region's peoples. He stressed that the Palestinian people are still looking forward with confidence and pride to enjoying a better future in which they can exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. Here is the text of the message:

To the chairwoman of the UN committee on the Palestinian people's inalienable rights:

First of all, I would like to extend our gratitude for the great efforts you and the committee members are making to acquaint the people with the just cause of the Palestinians and for your invaluable support for the Palestinian people's struggle to present their just demands and obtain their legitimate rights within the framework of the UN Charter and international legitimacy.

The anniversary of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people comes this year amid historic world developments and changes and at a time when the Middle East region is going through a very critical phase. The people and states of this region, the birthplace of the three heavenly religions, have not yet been able to enjoy the just and lasting peace they deserve and look forward to.

Egypt always has expressed its strong belief that a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian problem is the only viable approach to reaching a Middle East peace which brings stability and security to the people and allows them to dedicate their resources to development and building societies. Egypt's belief always has prompted it to support the Palestinian people, so that they can exercise their lawful rights.

The Palestinian people have gone through a consecutive series of sacrifices, hardships, and daily suffering. The Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories over the years has constituted a link in that struggle which aims to realize the people's aspiration for a free and dignified life.

The continuation of the Palestinian march over these long years shows that people's rights never become invalid with the passage of time and that the Palestinian yearning for justice and peace will continue to exist as long as the people are deprived of their lawful rights, including that of self-determination.

The current international situation has created a unique opportunity to resolve the Middle East problem. In late October, the world witnessed a historic event by all standards, when a peace conference was held in Madrid under the auspices of the United States and the Soviet Union with the participation of all the parties concerned with the Middle East problem, including representatives of the Palestinian people, many Arab and European states, and the UN secretary general.

That event undoubtedly represented an important starting point to enhance sincere international efforts to

begin a peace process in the Middle East. In the meantime, it represented the first step toward understanding and dialogue among the people of the region to establish a lasting peace based on the true substance of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338; that is, to return the occupied Arab territories to their lawful owners in exchange for peace, security, and stability for all the regional peoples and states.

Egypt believes that all the parties concerned should seize this unique opportunity to proceed toward reaching a just solution for the Palestinian problem. The international community should support and encourage the parties concerned to overcome the obstacles hampering a peaceful solution.

Egypt has faith in the international community's ability to shoulder its historic responsibility in this connection, and thus provide a favorable atmosphere for finding a just and lasting settlement based on respect for the principles of international law and the UN Charter and resolutions, as well as on recognizing the lawful political and national rights of the Palestinian people.

The principles on which the United Nations was founded, primarily the principle on all peoples' rights to self-determination and to obtaining their basic rights, must be applied equally to all the peoples of the region. The Palestinian people are still looking forward with confidence and pride to enjoying a better future in which they can exercise their inalienable right to self-determination.

In the end, I would like to renew my gratitude for your esteemed committee, reiterating to you and to its members our appreciation and support for your sincere and honest efforts.

The UN committee on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people held a meeting today to mark the occasion of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. During the meeting, the committee listened to the messages addressed by heads of states and governments to voice their governments and people's solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle for their national rights, including the right to self-determination.

The committee has taken measures to show a series of films at the UN General Secretariat Headquarters for a week starting today. An exhibition depicting the Palestinian people's struggle also will be held at the UN General Assembly Headquarters at the same time.

Mubarak on Economic Reform, Peace Talks

NC3011151391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has asserted that economic reform is a difficult task, but if it had been delayed the country now would be in worse straits.

In an interview with MAYU chief editor Samir Rajab to be published Monday, the president said: This year is the most difficult in the years of economic reform. Later on there will be no large price increases. There will only be increases within the people's ability, and then we will have the price stability that we are seeking.

He added: We are making careful decisions, the results of which, although difficult, the citizen will be able to bear.

The president pointed out that the government can print more money and increase salaries two- or three-fold, but the country does not have enough money to import the necessary commodities in quantities that would balance the increased pay. He noted that in such a case, any salary increase will not have a noticeable effect.

Speaking about the new cities, the president said their general activity will determine how many job opportunities they generate. He said: We cannot expect to find every newly built city filled to capacity within a short period.

The president called on financially capable people to make contributions to end unemployment and asserted that all the political parties must discuss this issue because the parties were established primarily to submit alternative views for the benefit of the people.

The president stressed that every political party and institution must give priority to resolving the population problem for the sake of citizens and future generations, especially as the population increase annually is more than 1 million. He said the population increased by 13 million during the past 10 years, which burdened the (?economy) and the job market. He pointed that without such an increased rate, the country would be much better off.

On the differences between the ministers, he said this is normal and harmless, because every minister seeks the public good in the way he feels is right, but eventually problems are resolved within the cabinet.

President Mubarak told MAYU that Egypt's relations with the Gulf countries are as good as they can be. He explained that the stand Egypt adopted during the Kuwait crisis was not prompted by the hope for economic assistance, but was a principled stand.

On Israel's intransigence, the president said: This is something to which we have become accustomed.

He advised Arab negotiators not to despair during the peace talks but to be patient and persevere, declaring: We demand a just settlement of the Palestinian issue because it is a just cause.

The president announced that settling Egyptians in Libya requires prior guarantees that will provide them with the means for a dignified and secure life.

Regarding the current crisis between the United States and Libya over the Lockerbie plane crash, he said the

current U.S. leadership is reasonable, adding: I do not believe that the United States will carry out a military strike against Libya.

Foreign Minister Stresses Land for Peace Principle

NC3011191791 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt's stand on the issue of peace in the Middle East is consistently based on the principle of land for peace. He said: We are confident of the Arab negotiators' competence. We hope Israel will display commitment and goodwill during the current Middle East peace talks to achieve peace in the region.

Musa explained that Egypt plays a key role in ensuring the security of the Gulf region.

Further on Iran, Peace Talks, Sudan

NC3011221391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stressed that Egypt has no objection to a constructive and mutual dialogue with the Iranian side within the framework of calm diplomacy and mutual interests. He said that the basis for this dialogue should be that Arab interests cannot be ignored where other interests are involved. He added that Egypt is willing to listen to Iran as a friendly country with which we will have talks at the proper time.

On the Arab-Israeli peace talks, Musa said in statements he made following the National Democratic Party Political Club's meeting tonight that the peace negotiations with Israel will be long, difficult, and complicated. He stressed that the Arab negotiator is no less competent that his Israeli counterpart. He expressed hope that Israel will enter into these negotiations on a basis of goodwill and international legitimacy, which in turn is based on the principle of land for peace, right in return for right, and commitment in return for commitment.

On Egyptian-Sudanese relations, he said: Sudan is a fraternal country. The Sudanese are the brothers of the Egyptian people. There are, however, some differences about the directions of some Sudanese policies, and we hope these will be abandoned and the existing difficulties overcome.

Al-Baz To Go to Amman To Prepare for Summit

NC0112215391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2118 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR reports in its edition to be published tomorrow that Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, will leave for Amman tomorrow or the day after [2 or 3 December] to meet with King Husayn of Jordan. The paper says Dr. al-Baz's brief mission in Amman deals with preparation for an expected summit meeting between President Mubarak and King Husayn.

On the same subject, AL-JUMHURIYAH says in tomorrow's edition that a high-level Egyptian envoy will fly to the Jordanian capital within hours with an important message from President Husni Mubarak to Jordan's King Husayn.

'Arafat Comments on Meeting With Mubarak

NC0112123291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1152 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat this morning. Dr. Usamah al-Baz, foreign ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, also attended the meeting. Attending the meeting on the Palestinian side were Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and 'Abdallah al-Hurani, PLO Executive Committee members; Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to the Palestinian president; Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo; and Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador in Cairo.

After the meeting, 'Arafat said that we will not agree to moving the venue of negotiations from Washington and will not give in to Israeli demands. It has been agreed to begin and continue the talks in Washington and we welcome this, but we will not give in to Israeli blackmail. He pointed out that the talks can only be moved through the mutual agreement of all parties.

On his meeting with President Mubarak, 'Arafat said that he discussed the forthcoming stage of the negotiations that will be held in Washington. He thanked President Mubarak for allowing Egyptian experts who are experienced in negotiations with Israel to join and offer their expertise to the Palestinian delegation.

At a news conference following his meeting with President Mubarak, 'Arafat said that the talks with President Mubarak touched on the multilateral negotiations and the importance of prior Arab coordination so that there will be congruity in the Arab position to confront Israeli challenges. He said: I thanked President Mubarak for the great personal efforts he and Egypt are exerting to back the Arab position, particularly the Palestinian stand. He noted that as usual the talks with President Mubarak were held in a friendly, constructive, and positive atmosphere. The talks, he said, dealt with all issues: the bilateral negotiations that will be held in Washington, Egyptian-Palestinian ties, and the Arab situation in general. He noted that the talks also dealt with the issues that will be broached during the negotiations.

Responding to a question on Faysal al-Husayni's failure to join the delegation to Washington, 'Arafat said that it has been decided to keep al-Husayni in Jerusalem.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz said that Egypt always welcomes Arab coordination on all Arab issues and questions related to peace. He said that there is constant coordination among all the parties directly concerned. What occurred at the peace conference in Madrid reflects this coordination. There will be further Arab coordination in the upcoming stage to consolidate the unified Arab position that is taking the initiative in the peace process.

Asked about the U.S. proposals reportedly submitted to the parties concerned to discuss during the upcoming bilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington involving withdrawal from the Golan and autonomy for the Palestinians, 'Arafat said: There are bases and principles for the bilateral talks. He pointed out that the principles include, first, implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, meaning withdrawal from the Arab and Palestinian territories occupied in 1967; second, stopping Israeli settlements; and third, the basic point, "Jerusalem." In this respect, he noted that the peace process stems from the U.S. initiative declared by U.S. President George Bush on 6 March. The initiative says "land-for-peace" and implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, which means withdrawal from the occupied territories and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He said that the United States must confirm these principles.

'Arafat expressed his hope that the United States will grant entry visas to certain PLO members accompanying the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral negotiations in Washington.

Asked about the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, 'Arafat said that it is our right to insist that the U.S. broker be "balanced" since he is one of the cosponsors of the Middle East peace conference. He said that the Soviet Union resumed its diplomatic relations with Israel and it is our right to demand that dialogue with the United States be resumed or else the Americans "are not brokers" among all parties.

Responding to a question on the Palestinian position should Israel insist on continuing the discussion of procedures only and not entering into the substance during the negotiations in Washington, 'Arafat said: In such a case, we will return to the basic platform from which all peace steps started, namely, President Bush's peace initiative.

'Arafat Meets With Iraqi Foreign Minister

LD0112203891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived this morning in Cairo on a short visit during which he was to hold talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak concerning the latest efforts to hold the second round of peace talks in Washington next Wednesday. The brother leader's visit to Cairo comes within the context of an Arab tour also taking him to Jordan and Syria.

The brother leader met yesterday in Tunis with Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir. The meeting dealt with the efforts to bring peace to the Middle East, focusing on Arab and Palestinian national rights in facing up to the obstinate Zionist attitudes, as well as the course and development of the situation of the fraternal Iraqi people under the shadow of the blockade imposed on that country.

Brother leader and president Abu-'Ammar also met yesterday evening in Tunis with Dr. Rifa't al-Asad, vice president of the Syrian Arab Republic. The meeting discussed the Arab and international situations in light of the latest developments, including the current efforts to bring peace to the region and the bilateral talks to be held in Washington over the next few days.

'Zionism' Said Behind Pan Am Operation

NC2911160891 Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 27 Nov 91 p 57

[Column by Faruq al-Tawil]

[Text] I have written several times that I cannot love Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. I also cannot love or sympathize with any of his men or ideas. At the same time, I cannot hate them because ultimately they are considered Arabs. Moreover, I am obligated to cooperate with them in view of a decision made by my country's leader. But if the United States, the world's leader, decides to strike the Arab colonel or to instigate action against him, I will be compelled, regrettably, to sympathize with him. If President Bush has installed himself as headmaster of the school of troublemakers and terrorists, he is welcome as a fair headmaster. Terrorism is not exclusive to the Arabs. If we want to open the dossier of terrorism, let it be so and let us call to account all those who have abetted terrorism. Let us see who has introduced terrorism to the region. Who is still wanted dead or alive in Europe? Who terrorized the United Nations and assassinated former Secretary General Count Bernadotte?

My country's stand against terrorism is clear. The Egyptian Government and people do not support terrorism. If someone is accusing the colonel of blowing up the Pan American airliner, I say that Libya is like an idiotic student who has tried to join terrorism school but has failed because of poor grades. Zionism is the world's best teacher of terrorism. All other terrorists are poor imitators.

I personally wish that Libya was responsible for blowing up the Pan American plane, because this would be the first successful attempt in its history. We have been accustomed to seeing al-Qadhdhafi's attempts end in utter failure, even when he tried to work against us in the past. His agents used to surrender themselves as soon as they would arrive in Egypt. Egyptian intelligence used to infiltrate his ranks.

Some Libyan intelligence personnel certainly are very happy now because they have been accused of doing something very big. Some politicians like the world to speak about them and to mention their names in connection with anything, even if it is terrorism. They have rarely known success. U.S. intelligence and world Zionism surely know the psychology of these politicians, who like to talk and be in the limelight, even if it is harmful, and who prefer not to do anything.

The United States and Zionism successfully tried these tactics with Saddam when they spoke about his strength, omnipotence, and immense capability, realizing how happy he would be to hear their views. He never realized that they were pushing him to the abyss.

The important thing is that Zionism brought the issue of the Pan American plane to the surface a few days after the Arab success in Madrid, where Faruq al-Shar' displayed a photo of Shamir as a wanted terrorist and murderer. Therefore, it was necessary to divert attention from Shamir's terrorism or the Zionism's terrorism and to accuse the Arabs of terrorism in order to terrify Libya and warn Syria.

Zionism wants to drive a wedge between the Arabs and the United States. It wants to put an end to the Arab-U.S. honeymoon. It tried but failed to do this in the 1950's during the Lavon scandal. It continued to try until it won total U.S. support. Al Sadat then came to compete with Zionism and to win the support of U.S. society. After Saddam did his deed, the Arabs began to compete with Zionism for U.S. support. Naturally, it is difficult for Israel or Zionism to accept this situation because this means its role will end and a day will come when it will have no mission or task at a time when the United States is ruling the world. The Arabs realized this and treated the issue with great wisdom. We are all eager to keep the U.S. support and deprive Israel of controlling the United States, as it has done in the past and which Shamir wants to do now.

If the United States is ruling the world now, Zionism is not satisfied with ruling the world. Therefore, we tell Bush: If you are the headmaster of the school of troublemakers, we hope you will gather them in one class. If you gather all Arab and Muslim troublemakers and terrorists, they will be small students in the school of Zionist or international terrorism. Because the Pan American operation was flawless, it puzzled the United States, France, and the United Kingdom and made them accuse Iran, Syria, and Libya. This flawlessness proves that Zionism, the master of international terrorism, was behind this operation. Coming days will prove this.

Libya

Message on Lockerbie Circulated at UN

LD3011084291 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0755 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] United Nations 30 Nov (JANA)—The UN General Secretariat has circulated a message from Brother Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari, secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, to UN Secretary General Javier de Cuellar as a UN official document.

The message focused on the British and the American government statements which indicted what they called Libyan elements for the blowing up of the American Pan Am aircraft, Flight 102, and on the threats and accusations contained in those statements at a time when the world is witnessing detente and concord based on constructive dialogue and mutual respect between the peoples, and between the members of the international community.

Lockerbie Investigator Requests Access to Documents

LD2811165391 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1610 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Nov (JANA)—JANA has learned that lawyer Ahmad Tahir al-Zawi, a Supreme Court justice who has been commissioned to investigate the American Pan Am explosion, has asked the chairman of the District of Columbia Grand Jury and the general prosecutor in the United Kingdom to supply him with official photocopies of all the documents and minutes of investigations concerning the incident, or to give orders to enable him to peruse them in America and Britain, or to set up an appointment for him to meet them to examine the matter in a legal framework.

Al-Qadhdhafi Briefed on Arab Support

LD3011140391 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1205 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Nov (JANA)—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, received Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, and Brother Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, the secretary of the General People's Committee, who were entrusted by the brother leader of the revolution to convey messages to the presidents and kings of the sister Arab countries.

The envoys gave reports to the brother leader of the revolution on the results of their missions to the Arab countries. These reports expressed these countries' stands which support the Great Jamahiriyah regarding the British and American allegations concerning the crash of the Pan Am airliner over British territory. The envoys told the brother leader of the revolution that the presidents and kings of the Arab countries have announced their support for the Great Jamahiriyah in its facing up to these threats. They have expressed their surprise at the campaign of distortion which Libya is being subjected to, and which has nothing to do with the issue behind these accusations.

The Arab presidents and kings stressed their deep conviction that the Great Jamahiriyah—which brought to mankind a new thought for the benefit of the small

peoples to stand with them in their just causes and endeavor for the preservation of international peace and security—could not carry out the actions that have been alleged.

The presidents and kings of the Arab countries stressed during their receptions of the envoys that according to their relations with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and knowing the complete concern he has for the life, future, and security of the peoples, and his death-defying defense of their happiness, and the creative human thought he has brought for the service of the whole mankind, he cannot carry out or even allow anyone to carry out such an action that the American and British quarters want to raise against the Great Jamahiriyah and its people.

Assets Transferred From Europe to Near East

NC2911193091 Paris AFP in English 1911 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Nov 29 (AFP)—Libya has transferred more than one billion dollars in assets from French, British and other European banks to the Gulf, Egypt and Cyprus, the Al-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper reported Friday.

"Probably more than one billion dollars ... were transferred from French banks to Arab banks operating in the Gulf, Egypt and Cyprus," the newspaper said quoting Arab banking sources in Paris.

According to these sources the transactions were carried out for Libya by a senior Arab banker in the French capital, whose identity was not revealed.

"Similar withdrawals of Libyan assets from Britain and other European countries were also undertaken," the daily added. [passage omitted]

Former Diplomat Denies Guilt in French Bombing

AU2911134491 Paris AFP in English 1303 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Paris, Nov 29 (AFP)—Abdallah Elazragh, Libya's former acting ambassador in Brazzaville and one of four Libyan agents wanted here in connection with the bombing of a French airliner, has denied any involvement in the affair. In an interview Friday in the daily LIBERATION, Elazragh denied meeting any of the Congolese men to whom, French investigators claim, he gave the suitcase lined with explosives that downed the UTA DC-10 over Niger's Tenere Desert on September 19, 1989, killing all 170 people on board.

The newspaper said it had sent a list of questions to Elazragh through Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Bishari, and received answers, along with photocopies of Elazragh's passport and medical certificates.

Asked why he had left Brazzavile six days after the UTA disaster, Elazragh cited health reasons, saying he suffered heart trouble and had spent 10 years undergoing treatment at a Paris clinic earlier that year. He denied any involvement in the UTA affair, and said two other Libyans sought by Paris, Ibrahim Naeli and Musbah Arbas [spelling of names as received], were employees of a Libyan-Congolese forestry firm and were in fact trying to get on the plane that exploded "to spend a few days in Paris." But there were no seats on the flight, so they went instead to Addis Ababa, Elazragh said.

The other person France wants in connection with the bombing is 'Abdallah al-Sanussi, a brother-in-law of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the purported number two of Libyan intelligence.

The newspaper also ran excerpts from testimony under police questioning of Bernard Yanga, a self-avowed member of a Libyan-backed Congolese opposition movement and one of three Congolese agents Libya allegedly hired to carry out the bombing. In a series of rambling and sometimes contradictory statements, Yanga, who LIBERATION says is suffering from AIDS, admitted that he and two others members of the group, Apollinaire Mangatany and Jean-Bosco Ngalina, had agreed to carry out the bombing. The explosives were brought by Naeli and Arbas, he said, and the suitcase was provided by Elazragh, who was at the airport when Mangatany climbed aboard the plane with it—all points denied by Elazragh. The aim, Yanga said, was to blow up the airliner on the tarmac at Ndjamena airport during a stopover, when it was empty of passengers, to protest against France's policies in Chad. But the plane exploded in mid-air, killing Mangatany and all other people on board.

LIBERATION said French investigator Jean-Louis Bruguiere had based his case in part on letters Yanga allegedly wrote Elazragh, seeking to extort money after the incident.

U.S. and Britain have issued arrest warrants for two other Libyan agents, 'Abd-al-Basit 'Ali Muhammad al-Miqrahi and al-Amin Khalifah Fuhaymah, in connection with the Lockerbie disaster of December 21, 1988, when a Pan Am Boeing 747 exploded in mid-air and crashed into the ground, killing 270 people.

Liberation said the Lockerbie investigators appeared to have a stronger case, based on the discovery of a fragment of the detonator that was used, and which was traced to a Swiss company that had made 20 of them—all sold to Libya.

Judicial Cooperation With France Sought

LD2911151191 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1440 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Tripoli, 29 Nov (JANA)— Brother Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and

International Cooperation, received here today Mr. Jacques Rouquette, France's ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah. During this audience, brother al-Bishari informed the French ambassador about the Great Jamahiriyah's concern over the French statement on the UTA plane accident, which crashed over Niger in 1989.

Al-Bishari stressed to the French ambassador that the General People's Committee for Justice is eager to find a formula for judicial cooperation between appropriate judicial quarters in Libya and France to investigate this case so as to obtain the truth. At the same time, al-Bishari demanded that the French ambassador supply clarifications and specific practical formulae, as was stated in the above-mentioned statement issued by the French Government.

New Envoy Appointed to Soviet Union

LD2911224291 Tripoli JANA in English 1750 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Tripoli, al-Harth [November] 29 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—It was announced here today that Mohammad Husni Sha'aban is to be appointed as secretary of the Arab Libyan Peoples Bureau in the Soviet Union.

JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY learned that this appointment has obtained the approval of the Soviet Union Government.

Husni Sha'aban will proceed to Moscow to present his credentials and go ahead with his duties.

Al-Bishari Receives Soviet Ambassador 29 Nov

LD2911183891 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1748 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the Peoples Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau, Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari, today in Tripoli received the Soviet ambassador accredited in the great Jamahiriyah.

During the reception, the Soviet ambassador delivered to al-Bishari the clarifications issued by the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaliy Churkin expressing the satisfaction of the Soviet Union regarding the position of the great Jamahiriyah in denouncing international terrorism and the readiness of Libya to cooperate in the process of investigations, and assisting any international neutral judiciary corps. It reaffirmed the necessity of proceeding with the investigations to the end, before making allegations or accusations.

The JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY learned that the meeting handled the bilateral relations and the issues of joint interest.

Group Supports Libya, Threatens U.S. Interests

NC2911081191 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 27 Nov 91 p 4

[Text] "The Kurdish Revolutionary Committees Movement—Salah al-Din Forces—have issued a statement denouncing what it calls "U.S. fabrications" and the U.S. accusation of the Libyan Jamahiriyah of terrorism.

In its statement, the movement said that "the great Jamahiriyah is the sole expression of the hopes and aspirations of the oppressed people and masses." The movement urged Muslims—Arabs and Kurds—to rally around leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan people, and their people's authority.

The movement threatened to strike with a fist of iron against all U.S. interests in retaliation for any U.S. attack on the great Jamahiriyah. U.S. interests will be the target of our military operations throughout the entire world, the movement added.

Morocco

Iraqi Delegation Discusses UN Blockade

JN2811142591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Rabat, 28 Nov (INA)—An Iraqi National Assembly delegation led by Fa'iq Makki Ahmad, chairman of the Assembly's Financial and Legal Committee, met here today with Mohamed Jalal es-Said, first deputy speaker of the Moroccan Chamber of Representatives.

They exchanged views on Arab developments, especially the blockade against the people of Iraq and the role of Arab parliaments in supporting Iraq by breaking this blockade and calling for its end as an expression of effective Arab solidarity.

During the meeting, Mr. Ahmad explained the serious situation experienced by the Iraqis under the economic and medical blockade, and the political motives for the 30-state aggression against Iraq and the continuation of the blockade. He explained that the blockade is no longer justified now that Iraq has observed all unfair international resolutions. He pointed out the historic importance of bringing a swift end to the blockade as a reflection of the awareness of the danger posed by this international conspiracy against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The Iraqi National Assembly delegation also held a series of meetings with representatives of the various parties in the Moroccan Chamber of Representatives. Apart from the aforementioned topics, the talks centered on strengthening cooperation between the two countries' legislative bodies.

King Hassan II Pays Official Visit to Italy

WA2611165891

For Rome and Rabat reportage on the visit by King Hassan II to Italy, including reports on his talks with Italian President Cossiga and his comments on the Arabs' willingness to negotiate on Jerusalem in exchange for sovereignty over Islamic holy sites in that city, please see the Italy section of the 26 November West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Tunisia

Iraq Seeking Release of Planes, Frozen Assets

NC2911114591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Tunis, 29 Nov (MENA)—It seems that Iraqi-Tunisian relations are currently tepid in view of Tunisia's commitment to resolutions pertaining to the UN blockade of Iraq. There have been no official reports on Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn's visit to Tunis, which began on 27 November.

MENA's correspondent in Tunis has learned that the Tunisian foreign minister met yesterday with the Iraqi minister, but official media made no mention of the meeting or the topics discussed.

It is believed that the talks dealt with two topics: the release of four Iraqi civilian airliners, which have been in Tunis since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, and the release of frozen Iraqi assets in Tunisian banks.

President Receives Iraqi Envoy

JN2911120491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Tunis, 29 Nov (INA)—Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Tunisian president, today received Ahmad Husayn, foreign minister and President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy.

Following the meeting the foreign minister told an INA correspondent in Tunis that he had conveyed an oral message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, concerning ties between the two countries and ways to improve them. He added that he also had conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings and best wishes for the prosperity and progress of the Tunisian people.

He said: The Tunisian president has asked me to convey his greetings and best wishes for good health to President Saddam Husayn, as well as his wish for the Iraqi people's progress in their efforts to overcome their current (?critical) condition.

Ahmad Husayn emphasized that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali had expressed Tunisia's sympathy with Iraq and hope that this crisis will be overcome for the benefit of Iraq and the Arab nation.

During the meeting the foreign minister reported on the consequences of the economic blockade being imposed on the Iraqi people, the suffering of the Iraqi people, and the serious and sincere Arab stand dictated by current developments to seek a lifting of that blockade.

The meeting was attended by Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya and the Iraqi ambassador to Tunisia.

President Saddam Husayn's envoy arrived in Tunis on Wednesday as part of a tour of Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania, as well as Tunisia.

Kuwait

Maltreatment of Palestinians 'Vehemently Denied'

LD2911191191 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1817 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Excerpts] London, 29 Nov (KUNA)—The State of Kuwait today vehemently denied King Husayn's claims on the maltreatment of Palestinians in Kuwait and (efforts) to force them to leave.

Faysal al-Sabah the press attache at the Kuwaiti embassy [in London], sent this morning a letter to the British 'THE INDEPENDENT'[newspaper] in which he reiterates that King Husayn's claims during his recent interview with the paper are a repeat of the vicious information campaign against Kuwait.

He points out that the number of Palestinians residing in Kuwait is now estimated at a mere 80,000 most of whom are Jordanian passport holders. [Passage omitted: Number of Palestinians before Iraqi invasion; Palestinians' plight due to the invasion]

He affirms that the Kuwaiti government has been able to control individual acts of vengeance which coincided with the liberation period, and which were the result of the ugly face of the occupation and the bitterness it created in Kuwaitis. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti diplomat added: The abovementioned interview also indicates that King Husayn believes that the multi-party talks which are within the framework of the peace process in the Middle East are the best platform to examine the future of the refugees, pointing out that all Arabs, including Kuwait, have exerted great military and political efforts to prompt the international community to recognize the Palestinians' legitimate rights, including their political right to self-determination on their own land.

He says that the Israeli Prime Minister must be very happy at this moment, cheering his efforts to divert the attention of the peace conference from the main cause to a subject which is dear to Zionists' heart,—settling the Palestinians in other Arab countries.

Al-Sabah pointedly remarks in this respect how King Husayn made the Israelis very happy in 1970 when he ordered his army in September of that year to fight the Palestinians and expel a great number of them to Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Plans To Restructure Armed Forces

PM2811145191 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 26 Nov 91 p 4

[Fayhan al-'Utaybi report: "Defense Minister Denies Existence Of Secret Clauses In Defense Agreement With United States"]

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim has announced that Kuwait is reviewing the Kuwaiti Armed Forces' structure after the Iraqi invasion to which it was exposed. He said that Kuwait will conclude defense agreements with Britain and France soon. And that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, in turn, will conclude defense agreements with the United States. [passage omitted]

This was said in a lecture which Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim delivered at Kuwait University's Commerce and Political Science Faculty yesterday. [passage omitted]

On the conclusion of defense agreements with friendly states, Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah said: "We started first by agreeing with our brothers in the GCC, Egypt, and Syria on establishing security and peace for Kuwait. We also concluded an agreement with the United States to the same end. And we will conclude similar agreements with Britain and France soon. The first task before us is to reorganize our defense forces. And we have studied the restructuring of the Kuwaiti Army and drawn up a new military policy that allows us to respond to any foreign aggression."

He added: "As the numerical strength of our forces is limited, there has to be an alternative for protection, that is advanced military technology, whether in equipment or training."

The agreement with the United States did not include any secret clauses, pointing out that military interests require that they not be revealed. [sentence as published] [passage omitted]

On the defense agreement with the United States, Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah said that "the Kuwaiti-U.S. agreement is only for guaranteeing security, as there will be no U.S. military base in Kuwait. This is why the Gulf states saw that there should be some kind of defense cooperation among the GCC states. And there will be a similar agreement between the Gulf states and the United States. And there will be a difference in that agreement, in view of the political considerations. And an agreement will be concluded with Britain in the same framework."

He pointed out that the Damascus declaration's aim is to guarantee stability and security for Kuwait and the Arabian Gulf region. He said that the signatory states are willing to send their armies at any time, and this was emphasized by promises issued by Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Cited on War Costs

PM2611122291 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 22 Nov 91 pp 1, 4

[Anwar al-Yasin report: "Kuwaiti Finance Minister Says in Interview With SAWT AL-KUWAYT: Kuwait's Share on Liberation War Cost $23 Billion; Last Payment Next Month"]

[Excerpts] London—At the end of December Kuwait will pay out $700 million—the last instalment of its contribution to the cost of the liberation war. By then it will have paid $23 billion—its total contribution to war costs. This was stated by Finance Minister Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan. In an interview with SAWT AL-KUWAYT he added that it cost $1.5 billion to extinguish the oil well fires, including the cost of equipment purchased, which will be sold in the future. As for the costs of the emergency plan, it totaled $260 million. [passage omitted]

Concluding his interview, the minister emphasized that the government has no intention of selling any part of its investments abroad. He added that the reports in this regard are mere rumors. He went on to say that the government was pleased to secure the foreign loan totaling $5 billion, and that it was secured without providing any guarantees to the banks, which reflects world confidence in Kuwaiti economic establishments and the national economy's strength.

Saudi Arabia

Pakistani Beheaded in $8 Million Heroin Haul

NC2911154391 Paris AFP in English 1500 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Riyadh, Nov 29 (AFP)—A Pakistani man charged with heroin trafficking was beheaded by sword Friday, the interior ministry announced one day after reports that Saudi customs officials had seized 30 kilograms (66 pounds) of heroin.

Qabul Mohammad Pirzada was executed in the western Saudi town of Jeddah, where he was recently arrested when he tried to bring into the city a "quantity of heroin," the ministry said.

The Saudi newspaper 'UKAZ on Thursday reported that heroin worth eight million dollars was found at Riyadh's King Khalid Airport in the luggage of travellers who were on their way from Bangladesh to Nigeria.

The identity and exact number of the travellers and the date of the seizure were not revealed.

Drug traffickers and addicts face the death sentence in Saudi Arabia, in line with legislation that has been in effect since 1987.

United Arab Emirates

Petroleum Minister Estimates World Oil Demand

JN2511194091 Manama WAKH in English 1640 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 25 (GNA)—UAE Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Yusuf Bin-'Umayr Bin-Yusuf has estimated world oil demand at between 65.5 and 66 million bpd in the first quarter of 1992, of which between 24.5 and 25 million bpd will be for OPEC oil.

Yusuf flew earlier today to Vienna at the head of a UAE delegation to take part in OPEC's bi-annual conference due to start tomorrow.

Speaking to EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY (WAM), Yusuf said "the conference has either to maintain the current output level or increase it."

But he ruled out such increase as most of OPEC members are producing at full capacity.

"The expected increase in demand should be met by a drawdown from the stockpiles at an average of 800,000 bpd," he said.

Oil prices have been slightly lower than OPEC's benchmark of 21 dollars, but Yusuf expected them to reach that level in December or in the first quarter of next year.

He noted that all market indications point to that trend, adding that oil prices currently stand at dlrs 20.66.

He said the slump in oil prices was a result of the plunge in world share prices, notably in New York bourse.

Yusuf pointed out that the expected oil market developments in the first quarter of 1992 do not require any new agreement, but he said they can be discussed at OPEC's conference in March.

Regarding the Soviet Union's recent production developments, Yusuf said these developments would not have a large effect on the market at present.

Republic of Yemen

Soviet Invitation to Peace Meeting Received

JN0112133791 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Foreign Minister brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani today received Soviet Ambassador in Sanaa Igor Ivashchenko, who handed the brother minister an invitation from his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, to attend the preparatory meeting for the subsequent multilateral Middle East peace talks. The meeting is set to be held in Moscow in January 1992.

Salih Receives Gorbachev Message on Soviet Affairs

JN2511124591 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received a letter from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on the current developments in the Soviet Union in light of signing the new union treaty, in addition to bilateral issues.

The Soviet ambassador in Sanaa conveyed the letter when the president received him today. The meeting was attended by the Soviet charge d'affairs in Sanaa.

Central Region 'Rocked' by Earthquake 22 Nov

10 Reported Killed

JN2311064791 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Ten people were killed and 39 others were wounded as a result of an earthquake which rocked the center of the country at dawn yesterday. The tremor registered 4 degrees on the Richter scale. It destroyed 17 houses and damaged another 87. Ambulances were dispatched to the fate-stricken areas to help the victims.

[In its review of press headlines at 0440 GMT on 23 November, Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic carries the following press headline without further elaboration: "An Earthquake Rocks al-'Udayn, and Causes Heavy Material and Human Losses. The Council of Ministers Orders Urgent Aid to the Afflicted Areas." Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic, in its major newscast at 1700 GMT on 22 November was not observed to carry any reports on this, and the 22 November 2000 GMT cast was, as usual, unheard. The 23 November 0430 GMT cast also was not observed to report on the earthquake.]

Sudan's al-Bashir Cables Condolences

JN2411082591 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, last night received a telephone call from his brother 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of fraternal Sudan's Revolution Command Council for National Salvation. Al-Bashir extended condolences and consolation to the Yemeni Government and people, and to all the families of the martyrs and the people stricken by the horrific earthquake which hit the al-'Udayn District and Hazm al-'Udayn at dawn the day before yesterday, Friday.

The president expressed to his brother 'Umar al-Bashir the appreciation and gratitude of the Sudanese leadership, government, and people for their kind sentiments and their condolences to our people on this incident, praying God Al-mighty to have mercy on the martyrs' souls and spare the Sudanese people all afflictions.

Saddam Said Arming PKK To Murder U.S. Citizens

NC3011094591 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 25 Nov 91 p 9

[Text] Hakkari ANATOLIA AGENCY—The Voice of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan in Iraq [DPK], which broadcasts from northern Iraq, has reported that Kurdish peshmerga units have been attacked jointly by Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] militants and Iraqi troops. The radio also claimed that President Saddam Husayn has provided various types of arms to the PKK organization to murder U.S. doctors and other officials in northern Iraq, and called on the peshmergas to avoid helping the PKK terrorists in any way.

The radio, which can be monitored from Turkey's southeastern border region, said in one of its newscasts that the Iraqi forces have cooperated with the PKK terrorists to organize attacks on the Kurdish peshmerga units, noting that a number of people have been killed in two hospitals in al-Sulaymaniyah as a result of the attacks, in which rocket launchers and long-range firearms were used. The radio declined to give the number of casualties. Furthermore, it claimed that Saddam Husayn has provided various types of arms to PKK terrorists to murder U.S. doctors and other officials in northern Iraq.

The radio said that the DPK has distributed bulletins in northern Iraq calling on the peshmergas not to help the PKK terrorists in any way. It also reported that the peshmergas have held protest demonstrations against the PKK in al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil.

Saddam, al-Majid Meet Military Bureau Members

JN3011123691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1223 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, met here today with members of the party's Military Bureau [al-makrab al-'askari].

The meeting was attended by 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Regional Command, and Kamil Yasin, member of the Regional Command and deputy official in charge of the Bureau.

Saddam Letter Stresses Palestinian Rights

JN2811101891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has stressed that the people and Government of Iraq are determined to continue their support for the Palestinian people and their just struggle to achieve their legitimate goals and inalienable rights.

He said: We are making this assertion this year despite the blockade and the other unjust measures imposed by the United States and its allies against Iraq.

What the peoples of Iraq and Palestine are being subjected to, said the president, has unquestionably shown the world the double standard policy practiced by the United States and its allies toward UN laws and resolutions.

This came in a letter leader President Saddam Husayn addressed to the chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People [CEIRPP] on the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, which falls tomorrow, 29 November.

Following is the text of the letter:

Chairman of the CEIRPP:

The day of solidarity with the Palestinian people takes on special significance this year in view of the developments of the Palestine question and the international situation in general. On this occasion, we express our appreciation of the CEIRPP work and stress to you that the people and Government of Iraq are determined to continue their support for the Palestinian people and their just struggle to achieve their legitimate goals and inalienable rights. This year, we are asserting this despite the blockade and the other unjust measures imposed against Iraq by the United States and its allies under cover of the so-called international legitimacy.

The president added: What the peoples of Iraq and Palestine are being subjected to has unquestionably shown the world the double standard policy practiced by the United States and its allies toward the laws and resolutions adopted by UN bodies. This is reflected in the current attempts to settle the Palestine question. These attempts exclude the PLO and refuse to recognize it as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. They also prevent the United Nations itself from playing any role in solving the problem and, consequently, they ignore the UN resolutions that underscore the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. The double standard policy is also reflected in the failure to take any measures to force the Zionist entity to comply with the UN resolutions, which provide for the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem, and the end of settlement building there.

The president added: While an American-Western drive to prevent arms, even conventional ones, from reaching the region is being launched, and while a frantic campaign against Iraq is being enforced, the aggressive, expansionist Zionist regime is allowed to keep all kinds of mass destruction weapons, including a nuclear arsenal.

The president added: Right and justice make it incumbent on all fair people in the world to reject the policy of double standards and to urge the world community to implement UN resolutions on the rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab-Zionist conflict. Until international legitimacy is applied to the Palestine question, we must support the steadfast Palestinian people and

their struggle, represented by the popular intifadah, which embodies the Palestinian people's rejection of the Zionist entity's policy of occupation, settlement, oppression, and dispersion, and reflects Palestinian determination to exercise the inalienable Palestinian rights to repatriation and to self-determination on the soil of Palestine.

Saddam Husayn Meets Kurdish Leader Barzani 30 Nov

JN3011183191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1806 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received Mas'ud Barzani, head of the Kurdistan Parties Front and leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister; and Staff Lieutenant General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, defense minister.

'Kurdish Source' on Barzani Visit

NC0112174591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] A Kurdish source has said that he assures all the brothers in the Iraqi opposition and all the Kurdish groups that Mas'ud Barzani's visit to Baghdad and his meeting with 'Izzat Ibrahim al-Duri and the tyrant's defense minister, 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, was made on the basis of a personal initiative by Barzani himself. He was not entrusted with making this visit by the Kurdish opposition leaders.

The source said in a statement that the visit took place following a shortage of supplies in the north due to the tyrant's siege. The Kurdish source reaffirmed the demand for fulfilling all the legitimate and human rights of the Kurds and refugees in the north and for democratic action and free elections. He said that we will look into the issue of meetings with the tyrant's government after the food and medicine problems are resolved.

Asked whether there is any fear for Barzani's life, the Kurdish source said he hopes Barzani will return safely from Baghdad. There is no doubt that he has taken all precautions, because he does not believe...[changes thought] because he is afraid of the tyrant and his men.

The defeated tyrant met last night with Mas'ud Barzani for talks on the situation in the north.

Barzani Visit To Aid Dialogue

JN0112175591 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1434 GMT 1 Dec 91

["Station commentary" entitled: "On the Occasion of the Visit to Baghdad by Brother Struggler Mas'ud Barzani—Continuing the Dialogue To Produce the Expected Results Will Serve Our Iraqi People's Interests and Will Help To Solve Their Problems"]

[Text] Dear listeners: During its meeting late last month under brother struggler Mas'ud Barzani, the Central Committee of our Democratic Party of Kurdistan paid special attention to the issue of the dialogue which began between the Kurdistan Front and the central government in April this year. Their objective is to find the best way to solve the chronic Kurdish issue in a manner that would achieve common interests; reinforce historical fraternity between the Arab and Kurdish people, who enjoy many common ties; and entrench national unity in the service of the future of our country, which, today, is in a dire need of nursing its wounds and tackling its problems and urgent issues.

In its review of the march of dialogue and proposed plans, the Central Committee affirmed—as came in the statement it issued—that the new stage on the internal, regional, and international levels has created better circumstances to find a peaceful solution to the Kurdish issue in a way that will serve the ambitions and aspirations of the Iraqi people as well as Iraq's unity.

This understanding and awareness of this stage, the prevailing situation, and the problems which our country is facing, prompt us to us say that there is a need to resume the dialogue to produce acceptable and appropriate formulas for the items and topics that need further discussion, consideration, and examination.

The masses of Iraq's Kurdistan are waiting with great interest for the results of what the two sides had begun eight months ago; they are eager to see an honorable end to it. This is because the matter concerns them, their interests, and their future in the first place. The solution to the issue will also be reflected positively on all levels in our life, and will help solve all other economic, social, and political problems.

Struggler Mas'ud Barzani recently left for Baghdad to meet with officials there out of his concern for the interests and national unity of the Iraqi people in general, and for the interest of our Kurdish people. Such a step was necessary, especially since the Kurdish arena has recently witnessed deteriorating circumstances and situations in many fields. This is in addition to the masses' boredom, because of the long dialogue which is keeping them in a state of expectation for its results.

With regard to the current visit to Baghdad by struggler Mas'ud Barzani, although we do not want to jump to conclusions, we want this visit to achieve the expected wellbeing and good results.

We hope that Barzani's visit will inaugurate a new stage of seriousness and persistent work that is characterized by confidence and sincerity to build what should be built, repair what should be repaired, and rectify what should be rectified. All our common efforts should be geared toward renovating the Iraqi community and laying down the best foundations to build its prosperous

future. And the first thing to be done toward this end is to resolve the Kurdish issue peacefully, reinforce Arab-Kurdish fraternity, and build a firm, strong bastion for genuine Iraqi national unity so that the country will enjoy democracy, freedom, and social justice and Iraq's Kurdistan will enjoy a real autonomy.

Commentary, Editorial on Kurdish-Regime Talks

Resumption of Dialogue Urged

JN2711164091 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Nov 91

["Station commentary" entitled: "The Way Out of the Current Situation To Make the Dialogue Reach its Desired Result"]

[Text] Dear listeners: Four whole months have passed since the start of the previous discussions between the government and Kurdish sides. This dialogue was launched after the two sides had agreed to reach an understanding to resolve the Kurdish issue away from the use of military force, which has been proven time and again to be useless and to be incapable of resolving this chronic issue. Moreover, successive [Iraqi] governments affirmed that this issue is a national one, which has legitimate nationalist and democratic objectives after each and every truce, and after each and every round of negotiations or dialogue between the two sides. In this same vein, successive governments have asserted that the recourse to force will only lead to further losses of human life as well as material losses, not to mention that this will harm the interests of Iraq and its people.

In their current dialogue, the two sides also proceeded from a desire to safeguard Arab-Kurdish brotherhood, the national unity of the Iraqi people, and the future of their country. Nevertheless, the previous bitter experiences, which were marked by the erroneous handling of this issue and its components, have been conspicuously clear for all to see. The draft agreements and proposals submitted to resolve this legitimate issue were the outcome of endeavors by both delegations. Likewise, they were the result of their fraternal discussions and dialogues, which were characterized by a strong eagerness to bring an honorable end to this issue; one that would safeguard the interests of the Iraqi people, be they Arabs Kurds, or minorities, and that would also close the doors and plug loopholes before the attempts which are hostile to the aspirations and ambitions of well-intentioned and sincere parties.

Now that there has been a long delay in resuming the dialogue due to differences of opinion between the two sides regarding some issues. What would help untie the knot, to borrow a metaphor, is a resumption of the dialogue and a revival of the negotiations, displaying the same spirit demonstrated by the two sides in the dialogue, especially since the two sides asserted that they are one team rather than two. Obstacles will not be removed if the current situation is maintained. Similarly, it is impossible to resolve problems and reach a satisfactory agreement on them unless meetings continue and the dialogue is resumed, and also unless contentious points or disagreements are discussed again, since this would help the two sides set forth the proposals and solutions that could help them find a way out of this vicious circle and reach an agreement that would really promote the interests we all seek to promote.

Understanding, dialogue, and peace are our common options to help resolve the issue; turn a new leaf in fraternal ties; and herald in an era marked by democracy, freedom, equality, and justice. Hence, what we really need, what our Iraqi people—be they Arabs, Kurds, or minorities—are awaiting, and what should be done to surmount the difficulties is to resume the meetings and dialogue. The success of these talks would be resented by many enemies and malicious parties who like to fish in murky waters inside and outside Iraq.

Agreement 'Fatal Blow' to Enemies

JN3011174991 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Nov 91

["Today's Editorial" by Hisham 'Awdah; from "The Radio Newspaper" program]

[Text] Gentlemen: Brotherly meetings continue in Baghdad between a government team—led by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council vice chairman, and made up of Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid—and a delegation from the Kurdistan Parties Front led by Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan.

These meetings and dialogues aim to complement the talks that started in the past among the sons of the one people, who are concerned with rebuilding the one and united Iraq, for the unity of its territory and people, and for its national sovereignty.

The meeting in Baghdad has more than one meaning at this time. It declares the death and failure of all enemy schemes and dreams, which sought to amplify the reasons for estrangement and discord among the sons of the one people. More than one hostile capital and more than one foreign and mercenary party have taken part in that conspiracy.

The Mas'ud Barzani-led Kurdistan Parties Front delegation once again stressed its rejection of all temptations made by the states of the aggression and its denial of all rumors and false and fabricated news reports, which try to distort the front's position and its concept on Iraqi national unity and means to transfer and apply it all over Iraq.

This new round of meetings among the brothers, the sons of the one people, confirms that the national concern for Iraq is clear and established, thanks to the good efforts

exerted by those in charge of its affairs who are concerned for its safety and the safety of its territory and the security of its citizens.

Continued concern for Iraqi national unity all over Iraq is a slap directed by all good sons of this great people to all those who may be tempted to harm the people's supreme interests and the sacred interests of the homeland. The declaration of the final agreement between the government team and the Kurdistan Parties Front, regardless of the date on which it will be made, will constitute a fatal blow that all Iraqis—Arabs, Kurds, and other ethnic groups—will deal to the enemy camp, in all capitals of evil and in the dens of crime, where evil is harbored and ugly criminal designs are made against great Iraq.

Barzani Denies Reports Seeking To Visit Turkey

JN0112164791 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1452 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Dear listeners: In its 21 November issue, the Turkish newspaper GUNAYDIN claimed that it interviewed struggling brother Mas'ud Barzani. The paper attributed fabricated information to him. For its part, the Turkish newspaper HURRIYET, in its 29 November issue, published a report claiming that struggling brother Mas'ud Barzani had asked to visit Ankara to meet officials there, and that Turkish President Turgut Ozal accepted the proposal, but Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel had not yet replied.

Reacting to this, struggling brother Mas'ud Barzani denied everything reported by the two newspapers and the alleged interview, in part and parcel. The reports are baseless, and they clearly aim to confuse and deceive.

Delegation Presents Case to UN Reparations Body

JN2911210191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Geneva, 29 Nov (INA)—Iraq today presented the Board of Directors of the UN Reparations Committee with demands, proposals, and ideas related to the machinery of the work of the committee, compensation claims fund, their legitimacy, and deductions for the fund.

Muhammad Rida al-Shadidi, head of the Iraqi delegation to meetings of the board, submitted facts spelling out the difficulties experienced by the Iraqi oil industry, including securing the money needed to cover production and export costs and to repair the damage caused by the war. He also said funds were required for investments to develop new oil fields and maintain or raise the level of production.

The head of the Iraqi delegation demanded that these costs and funds be deducted from the value of the price of Iraqi oil, according to the proportion of the contribution to the reparations fund in order to secure the money needed by this industry and to avoid the current option, which leads to a fall in production and a shrinkage within the Iraqi oil industry—the only source of funding for the reparations fund.

Regarding monitoring the export of Iraqi crude oil, the head of the Iraqi delegation demanded that the fashion in which checks are made at the same time ensure assistance and freedom of action for the Iraqi oil industry. He warned that interference in the details of Iraq's oil industry should not be made a responsibility of the board. This might lead to the United Nations getting itself into needless mazes and to dislocating the Iraqi oil industry. He indicated that overdoing the monitoring may prove self-defeating and end up damaging the industry.

Al-Shadidi criticized the machinery proposed to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712, and described it as complex and confusing. He cited numerous examples, including the board recently appointing oil firms and consultative bodies to ensure compliance with these machineries, and sending experts to check on the technical state of the pipe transiting Turkey to evaluate the possibility of putting it into immediate operation. This was despite announcements by competent authorities in Iraq and Turkey that the pipeline will be ready immediately after exports resume.

The delegation chief noted that the General Secretariat declared its intention to hold talks with Turkey to seek an agreement on the cost of transporting crude oil and shipping it from Turkey, despite the existence of a valid agreement between Iraq and Turkey covering the export of oil across Turkey under normal and less-than-normal conditions.

Al-Shadidi noted that these examples point to potential, unjustified damage to Iraq's oil industry resulting from interference in specific details. The damage will be even greater when this fashion of monitoring is adopted as a precedent for future application.

Regarding the criteria for settling reparations claims now under consideration by the board, the head of the Iraqi delegation noted that many proposals are incompatible with provisions of international law applicable in such situations, as well as being contrary to previous cases the world has known since the two world wars.

He explained that some of the papers based compensation claims on national laws, applicable only in the nations where they were legislated and thus having no international application. He said that such provisions that may be fair to Iraq have been disregarded, and demanded the invocation of the rules of international law and the rulings of the International Court of Justice on matters of international responsibility.

The head of the Iraqi delegation pointed to contradictions between the claims-related papers the board is considering. Some papers have made compensation claims for indirect damages; others put in claims for probable damages. Others sought benefits in isolation

from the causal relationship between errors and damages. Some deemed compensation to cover those who have suffered as a consequence of the economic sanctions, while others ruled out compensation because of the economic sanctions, al-Shadidi pointed out.

He asked: Is not Iraq entitled to know according to which law its international responsibility to pay damages will be determined, and whether a standard law will be invoked? Is it permissible that whatever undermines Iraqi rights according to the French, British, and U.S. laws is applied, without Iraq benefiting from these same laws when they favor Iraq?

The head of the Iraqi delegation emphasized the need to limit compensation claims to the reparations fund, without leaving the door open for national courts to hear these cases and then make their own decisions, and pursue prosecution and rule on freezing free Iraqi money.

Mr. al-Shadidi warned of the risks involved in saddling Iraq with heavy financial burdens as a result of sums decided by the board, according to simplistic criteria that may now be adopted.

These sums may add up to a considerable amount when Iraq's debts and debt servicing is factored in. This is in addition to the monies deducted for the fund. All these funds will amount to a considerable proportion of Iraq's revenues, in a manner that no other country in the world has experienced before.

The problem Iraq will be facing will be such that its economy will collapse and thus make it default on its debt servicing and settling of fund deductions, he said.

Al-Shadidi urged that the board give Iraq the same rights as the claimant to present its case in terms of documenting the claims with the arbitrators' committees, which gave the claimant the right to challenge while denying that same right to Iraq. He stressed the need for Iraq to attend the board's discussions as the principal key party in all that comes before it.

Ba'th Regional Command Bureau Urges Blockade End

JN3011125491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA)—The Foreign Relations Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command has called for lifting the blockade being imposed on the Iraqi people. It has urged that no conditions or restrictions undermining the Iraqi people's independence, sovereignty, or national dignity should be implemented.

In an appeal addressed to Arab and international political parties and movements, the bureau urged them to undertake serious action to enable Iraq to secure the food, medicine, and baby milk it requires by utilizing its national resources without imposing any hegemony, arbitrariness, or impractical restrictions on the sale of its oil on the world market.

The appeal indicated that basic human rights, as enshrined in international and humanitarian charters, are being put to a serious test. These charters, the appeal noted, should apply to everyone without discrimination or the use of double standards.

The Foreign Relations Bureau appeal added that the justifications which prompted the UN Security Council to impose the sanctions have been removed. It is no longer acceptable to maintain the unfair blockade on 18 million Iraqis, who are being exposed to slow death, starvation, and the spread of diseases.

The appeal pointed out that Iraq has complied with UN Security Council resolutions and sincerely cooperated with the UN secretary general, as well as with the UN inspection teams which visited Iraq for this purpose. Moreover, the appeal added, Iraq continues to cooperate positively despite the fact that some parties have fabricated lies and pretexts to mislead world public opinion in order to harm and misrepresent Iraq's position.

The bureau called for making the slogan "Lift the Blockade Imposed on Iraq" a test for the credibility of principles and noble values. It urged expressing this slogan through various means of protest, be they demonstrations, memoranda, or strikes.

Papers Urge Security Council To Lift Blockade

JN0212091191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0728 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA)—Iraqi papers published today are unanimous that the Security Council's failure to overcome Washington's pressures that aim at maintaining the blockade on Iraq will tighten the White House's grip on the international organization and divest it of the bases of its humanitarian mission for which it was established.

In their editorials and comments today, the papers urge the Security Council to abide by the letter and spirit of the UN Charter and the clauses on the blockade on Iraq, given that the justifications for the blockade no longer exist after Iraq's commitment to these clauses and its decision to withdraw from Kuwait.

AL-THAWRAH says that the Security Council meeting today marks 16 months of suffering by the people of Iraq under the blockade.

AL-THAWRAH, which reflects the views of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds: The blockade, and all its consequent food, environment, and health tragedies and problems and the great loss of life, is, by all standards, a racist war crime and a genocidal campaign under the pretext of implementing resolutions of international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

AL-QADISIYAH asserts that the results of the blockade, on which the United States and its allies have wagered, have ultimately not been achieved and that the contrary results should make the Security Council deal with them objectively when it discusses today lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq.

AL-QADISIYAH, mouthpiece of the Defense Ministry, deals in its editorial today with the general outlines of these wagers, which it describes as unjustified political tampering. The paper says that events have proven Iraq's strength and its ability to remain steadfast and to challenge all attempts to impose tutelage and subservience on its independence and its people's sovereignty. It was also an occasion for the Iraqi people to demonstrate their creative power and the cohesive fabric of their national unity and their rallying around their leadership, represented by President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH argues that the Arab and international campaign to lift the blockade reveals the immoral nature of the blockade and brands it as an ugly precedent in the annals of international relations.

The paper holds President Bush and his allies morally and practically responsible for the blockade at present and in the future, saying that the pressures the enemies of Iraq are trying to impose on the Iraqi people to make them surrender to their conditions will never achieve their malicious objective. [passage omitted]

BABIL asserts that the Security Council committee members, when discussing lifting the blockade, should realize that their nations, along with other world nations, have mainly realized that the blockade is no longer justified and is meaningless after Iraq has accepted Security Council resolutions and demonstrated a positive attitude toward UN missions despite the provocative practices of these missions.

BABIL Resumes Publication 30 Nov

JN0112162991 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 30 Nov 91 p 8

[Excerpt] The newspaper BABIL reappeared today after an approximately one-month stoppage. The chairman of its board of directors is 'Udayy Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Oil Minister Returns From OPEC Meeting 1 Dec

JN0112185891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1753 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Dec (INA)—Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti has returned to Baghdad after participating in OPEC's 90th ministerial conference held recently in Vienna.

The oil minister told INA that the meeting agreed to maintain the oil production ceiling of 23.65 million barrels per day during the fourth quarter of this year and the first quarter of next year to enable OPEC to achieve its goal of securing $21 as a minimum prices for a barrel of OPEC oil.

He pointed out that the conference also decided to hold a meeting of the OPEC Ministerial Committee on 12 February next year to monitor the market. The chairman of the conference, he added, was authorized to call an early meeting if the market situation necessitates it.

The minister also said the conference stressed the need to comply with the July 1990 agreement, which fixed the shares of the member states, including Iraq's share amounting to 3.14 million barrels per day and constituting 14 percent of the member states' overall production. The conference also took into account the possibility of Iraq returning to the world oil market during the first quarter of 1992.

The oil minister added that the Iraqi delegation held several news conferences and explained Iraq's view that Resolutions 706 and 712 cannot be applied because they conflict with oil industry policies, they will confuse and complicate marketing operations, they imply political dimensions, and they harm Iraq's national sovereignty.

The Iraqi delegation held several bilateral meetings with Algerian, Venezuelan, Indonesian, Nigerian, Libyan, and Iranian oil ministers.

Magazine Cited on Participation in ICO Summit

JN3011184991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] The Iraqi magazine AL-RAFIDAYN today said that a ranking Iraqi delegation will participate in the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] summit that will start in Dakkar, the capital of Senegal, on 9 December.

Ghali Selection as UN Secretary General Viewed

JN2711210591 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 25 Nov 91 p 7

["The Opposite Side" column by Nasif 'Awwad: "Why Butrus Ghali?"]

[Text] We would have had the right to be jubilant over the selection of an Arab, and for that matter an Egyptian, to be the new UN secretary general, had the selection taken place under different circumstances from those being experienced by the Arab nation, notwithstanding that the one selected for the post was Dr. Butrus Ghali. The Arab nation is great and ancient; it has many efficient and qualified people who could hold this post, in addition to many other significant international posts. Moreover, Egypt, which is the largest Arab country in terms of population, and which has a well-known historical legacy and a well-known cultural weight, deserves to have one of its sons occupy such a post.

However, how many true Arabs felt such jubilation when this selection was made? Moreover, was the admiration

expressed by the United States and its satellites in the UN Security Council for the Arabs, the Arab nation, the Egyptian people, and Egyptian history the determinant factor which dictated the choice? Or was the selection meant to maintain the U.S. course regarding the continued humiliation of the Arabs?

The questions might seem strange. However, regardless of the opinions of each and every Arab, and particularly of each and every Egyptian who is well-informed about Dr. Ghali's record, do we not have the right to know, or at least to think of the role the United States wants the UN secretary general to play at this phase in which the United States is imposing its hegemony on the world body, the phase affecting us as Arabs? Moreover, can any Arab from Egypt, nominated by the current Egyptian regime, even if he were to be somebody other than Dr. Ghali, oppose U.S. wishes? One more question is whether or not he, Dr. Ghali this is, would seek to do so?

What the United States wants the new UN secretary general to do can be summed up in two basic things. They are the following:

First, the United States wants the United Nations to remain uninvolved in "peace" efforts, the efforts aimed at imposing "peace" on the Palestinians and Arabs, so that the UN resolutions passed against the Zionist entity and in favor of the Arabs will remain unimplemented.

Second, the United States wants to continue to use the United Nations as a facade for maintaining the unfair and illegal economic blockade imposed on Iraq, and imposing a similar one on any other Arab country whose policy might be resented by U.S. Administration officials.

Then can Dr. Butrus Ghali act against U.S. wishes, with regard to the aforementioned two issues? If he were to be able to do this—and he indeed can if he so wishes—would he desire to do that? Would such a thing fall in line with the policy being pursued by the current Egyptian regime, which nominated him for this post?

We hope that Dr. Butrus Ghali will prove the suspicions and doubts of the Arab nation's sons to be groundless. Similarly, we hope that he will disappoint the United States and the Egyptian regime, which nominated him for this post, with regard to action on both aforementioned issues. We would have the right to be jubilant over his selection for this post when such a thing happens. Then, we would really show jubilation. But, if he submits to U.S. wishes—and this is what we expect in all frankness—then the United States would address the Arabs and the entire world, saying: It is not only we and our Soviet partners who do not want a UN role in peace talks between the Arabs and "Israel," but also the UN secretary general, who is an Arab. Why then do you blame us? This is of special importance since the talks that will be held during new secretary general's term will revolve around regional issues, such as security, arms reduction, water resources, trade ties, etc.

With regard to the blockade imposed on Iraq, the United States will strive and work to confront the growing campaigns in the world and in the United States itself against the continued imposition of the blockade on Iraq, which exposes its children and women to starvation and medicine shortages, and against intervention in its domestic affairs, using an Arab cover to be added to the cover provided by the United Nations, derived from the fact that the UN secretary general is himself an Arab.

Having said all this regarding the selection of an Arab for this extremely important post, does this then provide any legitimate cause for jubilation for any honorable Arab?

We hope that Dr. Ghali will prove our suspicions to be unfounded so that we can show jubilation over his selection as secretary general of the most important world organization.

Official Position on U.S. Talks Released

TA0212093891 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 1 Dec 91

[Prime Minister's Office communication entitled: "Israel's Position on Washington Peace Talks"]

[Text] The following is Israel's position on the United States invitation to begin Arab-Israeli talks in Washington on the 4th of December 1991 and the reasons for its request for their postponement to December 9th 1991:

The invitation was conveyed to Israel without prior consultation, contrary to understandings with the United States that such moves would be coordinated with Israel, and that surprises would be avoided.

The outcome of these negotiations is critical to Israel's security and future. Israel has never had to deal simultaneously with four Arab partners to peace negotiations. Each of these Arab parties has immense demands on Israel, which may impact on its ability to survive. Israel cannot be rushed and pressured. It took 17 months of arduous and agonizing talks to achieve a peace pact with Egypt.

Israel has repeatedly asked the United States to help convene the peace talks in the Middle East. The United States responded with some sympathy, but nevertheless decided on Washington as the venue. This, despite the fact that Israel had agreed to begin direct talks in Madrid on the understanding that they would subsequently move to the region itself.

Israel's insistence that the negotiations must be direct and should be held in the negotiating countries stems from the Arab attitude to the peace process itself. For decades, the Arab states have rejected the idea of dealing with Israel directly, insisting on an international conference that would impose a settlement on Israel. With the termination of the cold war and the removal of Soviet support of their position, the Arab leaders changed tactics. They have agreed to the format of direct talks with Israel, but insisted that they should be sponsored, managed and directed by the United States. In return, they expect the United States to apply its weight behind the scenes to help extract concessions from Israel. Accordingly, they have refused to discuss with Israel the subject of modalities and venue of the talks, and insisted on a location removed from the region. In Arab perception, "direct talks" is a formality which serves as a cover for dealing indirectly through the United States. The Syrian authorities have even prevented the media from broadcasting to the Syrian public that the two sides met for direct talks in Madrid. Israel has tried hard to hold the talks in the countries that are supposed to be moving to peace. There is nothing more natural than that neighbors at war should meet on each other's territory, or on the borders between them, to put an end to hostility and war and conclude a peace agreement.

For Israel, holding the talks in Washington creates great technical difficulties. Israel is a democracy, whose decisions are made by the cabinet under the direction of the prime minister, not by a single ruler, as is the case in its neighboring countries. The Israeli negotiators must maintain personal contact with the decision-making level in Jerusalem, and come for consultations on a step-by-step basis throughout the process.

Israel proposed the postponement of the talks for a few days to enable the United States to consider its proposals and consult with the parties. Experience has shown that the gathering of all the Arab delegations at one time will give the hard-liners constant, irresistible leverage that will hamper progress. Israel fears that holding simultaneous talks with three Arab delegations would prevent a free exchange between itself and its interlocutors. Although Israel has warned the United States that convening all the Arab delegations with Israel at the same place and at the same time would not be conducive to successful negotiations, the United States went ahead and invited all four groups to come to Washington on December 4th.

The American decision to intervene in order to break an impasse on the venue question sets a dangerous precedent. The Arab negotiators now realize that by stonewalling and threatening they will persuade the United States to assume the role of arbitrator, and substitute itself for the direct talks.

The United States Government has consistently held the position that the Arabs and Israelis must negotiate directly. President Bush said in Madrid: "Peace will only come as the result of direct negotiations, compromise, give and take. Peace cannot be imposed from the outside." Yet, in the United States invitation to the December 4th meeting in Washington, the United States included detailed proposals and suggestions on the talks relating to every one of the three groups. Even before the agenda had begun to be discussed between the sides, the United States bypassed the issue and injected its views on the substance of the negotiations. This will only serve to strengthen the Arab resolve to talk substance only through the United States and meet with the Israelis only for imagery.

A telling example for Israel's concerns is a statement by the head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, in an interview on Damascus television. Referring constantly to Israel as "the enemy", the Syrian ambassador said that the negotiations with Israel were "a continuation of the war in a different form." The only way to test the Arab attitude to the peace talks is to enable Israel to conduct the negotiations directly, face-to-face, without any outside intervention on any aspect. Clearly, this is not the direction the peace process is taking today.

Cabinet Decides 'No Change' in Talks Position

TA0112104991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] The cabinet session ended a few minutes ago. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asserted that for the time being there has been no change in Israel's position; namely, Israel will be going to Washington on 9 December rather than on 4 December, the date mentioned in the U.S. invitation. The prime minister's position and that of most of the cabinet ministers who spoke during the meeting was that there will be no change in the Israeli position, at least not until further clarifications or approaches have been received from the U.S. Administration.

Foreign Minister David Levi apparently voiced the position of a minority when he said that our reactions have not been thoroughly thought out and that Israel will only lose points in the argument of whether to hold the talks on 4 or 9 December. Most ministers, however, sided with the prime minister's position of insisting on 9 December, unless additional clarifications are received from the Americans.

These clarifications are that it should be made sure that the negotiations are not conducted concurrently; in other words, that negotiations should not be held simultaneously with two delegations. This is the Israeli demand which has not yet been met.

More on Cabinet Decision

TA0112114191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] The cabinet was briefed this morning on the state of negotiations with Washington on the U.S. plan to have the bilateral peace talks open on Wednesday of this week. Reporter Jack Katzenell, just back from the Prime Minister's Office here in Jerusalem, says there has been no decision to change Israel's request that the talks begin on 9 December, that is, five days later than planned:

The cabinet was briefed on the latest efforts to achieve an understanding with the United States that would enable Israel to change its mind about going to Washington on the 9th instead of the 4th. But, the prime minister made it clear that nothing substantive had changed, and last week's decision still stands. Foreign Minister David Levi expressed exasperation over this, but the prime minister said that we have made our decision and we are sticking to it.

Transport Minister Moshe Qatzav said that the United States is showing a lack of respect for Israel compared to its treatment of the Arabs, and this did not auger well for the future of the negotiations.

[Begin Qatzav recording] Under the present process, the chance to bring peace is almost impossible. [end recording]

Health Minister Ehud Olmert said whenever there is a disagreement, even over procedure, the Arabs simply enlist American pressure, instead of dealing directly with Israel.

[Begin Olmert recording] Then the U.S. Government itself will make it impossible for the two sides ever to reach any agreement because the Arab countries always will say: Why should we make an effort if the U.S. Government is going to dictate it to the Israeli Government. [end recording]

Science and Energy Minister Yuval Ne'eman said he is against these negotiations anyway, but added that they have turned out to be worse than even he had predicted. He also too charged that the Arabs are evading direct negotiations and the United States is pandering to them.

[Begin Ne'eman recording] We are not discussing the fate of Louisiana or the possibility of Galilee becoming part of the United States. It is between Israel and the Arabs. [end recording]

And Minister Without Portfolio Rehav'am Ze'evi accused the United States of treating Israel as it once treated the Native Americans.

[Begin Ze'evi recording] Israel is not the Cherokee tribe of Indians that was put into a reservation, and they have to treat us as an independent state with all the respect and all the honor. [end recording]

In spite of the Inner Cabinet decision last week, Foreign Ministry officials have left for Washington to prepare for the talks. This caused some eyebrows to be raised in the Prime Minister's Office, but the Foreign Ministry points out that it has to prepare, even if the talks start on the 9th. Theoretically, Israel could still change its mind before the 4th, which is this Wednesday, but at this morning's cabinet meeting there was no sign of such a change.

Shamir, Levi Differences at Meeting Noted

TA0112181691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Excerpt] The political portion of the cabinet meeting began with a short briefing from Prime Minister Shamir on the outcome of Ambassador Shoval's contacts with Secretary Baker and his assistant Ross in Washington. Shoval had reported that the United States believes that all issues pertaining to the political process will be worked out directly between the sides. The United States will encourage direct contacts and stress their importance. The United States will offer proposals of its own if the sides fail to reach agreement. It is the U.S. stand that it is important that the debates be moved to the region at an appropriate date. However, the United States does not intend to announce at this point what this appropriate date is.

These four clarifications, concluded the prime minister, do not constitute a substantive contribution toward clearing up the controversial issues. Therefore, there is

no reason for the cabinet to revise its resolution to arrive in Washington on 9 December.

Israel was taken by surprise when the date was set for 4 December without coordination, recalled Shamir. Moreover, we have not so far received the letters of assurances given to the other sides, he added.

Foreign Minister David Levi asserted: Our approach to this problem stems from anger and aggravation and does not fully reflect material considerations. The outcome is tension in our relations with the administration and a loss of points in public opinion. It is worrisome that marginal matters have become substance and that we are paying a political price. [passage omitted]

Shamir Sticking to Cabinet Position on U.S. Talks

TA0212090891 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Dec 91 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] Israel's chances of getting the loan guarantees for immigrant absorption will vanish completely if the bilateral talks in Washington are put off or canceled as a result of the Israeli Government's position concerning their timing, political sources in Jerusalem assessed last night.

The sources said that reports arriving in Jerusalem over the last few days note that the chances of getting the guarantees are diminishing gradually in light of the deteriorating U.S. economic situation and the increasing public opposition to U.S. foreign aid.

The sources noted that the Israeli Government will be blamed for the failure of the current U.S. effort to convene the talks in Washington, and one of the inevitable outcomes will be that the chances of getting the guarantees will vanish completely.

In view of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's categorical announcement in yesterday's cabinet session that there is no reason to change the inner cabinet resolution whereby Israel will come to the talks only on 9 December, Israeli officials in Jerusalem are pinning their last—albeit dim—hopes on what spokesman Margaret Tutwiler will say today in the Department of State's daily briefing.

The sources hope that Secretary Baker will instruct Tutwiler to voice a view that will satisfy Israel concerning the transfer of the talks to the region and their being held in sequential rather than in concurrent order.

If such a statement is not made, the officials said, Israel will probably not change its position and will not report for the talks which, according to the U.S. invitation, are scheduled to open on Wednesday. The prime minister's associates noted last night that Shamir was disappointed by the U.S. response to the Inner Cabinet resolution—which Shamir read to the ministers yesterday—as reported to Ambassador Zalman Shoval by Baker's aide Dennis Ross. [passage omitted]

The Jerusalem officials admitted that there is no sign that in the two days left, the United States intends to digress from the formula relayed to Shoval. This being the case, the officials said, the prime minister cannot "capitulate" to the United States, seeing that the Inner Cabinet resolution was designed to send a clear "signal" to the administration that Israel will not tolerate any more U.S. "dictates" in the political process. For the "signal" to be effective, the officials remarked, Shamir must now stick to the Inner Cabinet resolution.

[A report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer on page 5 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 2 December adds that a document drafted by Foreign Ministry Director General Yosef Hadas for Minister David Levi in anticipation of yesterday's cabinet session notes that "by not showing up in Washington for the talks with the Arabs and the Palestinians on Wednesday, Israel will bring about a crisis of confidence with President Bush and Secretary Baker."]

Incidentally, it has been learned that Israel chose 9 December after learning that Syria had earlier asked to postpone the talks to that date due to the presidential elections. In the wake of the Israeli request, however, the Syrians changed their mind and agreed to come to the talks on 4 December. [passage omitted]

'Junior' Envoys To Attend Opening of Talks

TA3011202191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Israel is still awaiting the U.S. reply to last week's government decision. When the answer comes, the political level will discuss it. The prime minister's bureau is saying that the decision not to start negotiations in Washington on 4 December is valid.

Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik adds, however, that junior Israeli representatives will attend the opening of the round of talks, somewhat in the role of acting representatives, to reduce the public relations damage. The prime minister is also sending Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to Washington next week to help counter the expected media attack against Israel.

Shamir Addresses Journalists on Peace Process

TA2911131291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1110 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to Israeli news editors at a ceremony marking the anniversary of the UN resolution on the partition of Palestine and the establishment of the State of Israel; at Bet Sokolov in Tel Aviv—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A revolutionary change has taken place. The Soviet empire has collapsed. The Russian Zionist Movement has resumed its activity. The constraints that were the result of the struggle between the East and the West have disappeared, and the United States is now the sole superpower in the world and

especially in this part of the globe. Now, however, we witness a paradoxical process. On the face of things, the United States no longer has to buy the acceptance of the Arab countries, and it certainly does not have to mollify them at Israel's expense. We do not see any logic or any special objective need for the United States or the West in general to prefer the Arab countries over Israel or to pay them for their cooperation at Israel's expense. Apparently, developments are not following this logic.

As for the peace process, which we currently are in the midst of: The concept shared by all the Arab countries, as well as Arab elements not defined as countries, is that the current U.S. leadership has decided to change its policy in the Middle East and to support in principle all the Arabs demands against Israel. I emphasize that this is the Arab conception. This is what they think and believe. They openly say so.

The Arabs are demanding a complete Israeli withdrawal back to the 1967 borders, no Israeli opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state, a recognition of the Arab right to sovereignty over East Jerusalem, and a withdrawal from the Golan Heights. This is the Arab conception, and these are the positions they believe that the United States will support in the peace negotiations between Israel and the Arab world. This is undoubtedly not the kind of peace we prayed for, and there is no doubt that despite our desire for peace, almost no Israeli Jew will agree to peace at such a price.

Much has been said and written in the media that during my last visit to the United States, I wasted my meetings with President Bush and Secretary Baker arguing over the location of the peace talks. The location of the negotiations is admittedly an important issue, but these reports were inaccurate. I spoke with President Bush—with the secretary of state also, but mainly with the president—about the perception [preceding word in English] that has taken root in the Arab world, about the way the Arabs view the U.S. positions today, in light of the peace process. This viewpoint harms the peace process. Today, all the Arabs, without exception, are confident of U.S. support for their positions and do not feel that they must negotiate with us, with Israel. Their opinion, which is widely expressed, is that they have but one task: to convince the United States to implement the Arab positions—positions the United States itself subscribes to. Therefore, the Arabs want to hold all the talks with the United States, while totally ignoring us. They would, of course, be happy were Israel to accede to all their absurd demands; however, their major efforts are focused on persuading the U.S. Administration not to be deterred from pursuing the approach the Arabs believe it has adopted. I discussed this with the president and I said: Look, this is the way all the Arabs see things today; therefore, they see no need to negotiate with us—neither over procedural issues nor over substance. This is the root cause of their positions on all the problems and issues being raised in the negotiations process, which we consider to be of great importance.

We are very interested in holding this process. Both the president and the secretary of state told me that the Arabs were totally mistaken if their position is indeed as I have just described. If they believe this, then—in the president's own words—they are in for a rude awakening. This is a word-by-word translation. The secretary of state also asserted that anyone who thinks that the United States will abandon Israel is mistaken. We will not deliver Israel [preceding five words in English], he said. First of all, we do not have the power to do this, and even if we were capable of doing this, we do not want to. I hope that the response of the president and the secretary of state reflects political realities, even though the statements I have heard have not convinced the Arab world or altered the views of their representatives. The United States, I told them, must explain this to the Arabs so that they will know that negotiations must be conducted primarily between us and them—both on substance and on administrative and organizational matters. Otherwise, no progress will be made.

The recent incidents and mishaps over administrative issues have stemmed from the fact that the Americans told me—the president, the secretary of state, and their advisers—that Israel must reach agreement with its partners in the negotiations on all issues relating to the date of the talks. The Americans said they will accept such an agreement and only decide themselves if agreement cannot be reached. However, this is a refusal to face up to reality because the Arabs' line of action today is not to talk to us at all about these issues. They refuse to take our positions into account at all. The Americans are aware of this. We believe that the United States can change this. Anyone familiar with the United States' great influence in this region today knows they can impose certain rules on the negotiations and establish a framework that will really lead to negotiations and to an effort to achieve agreement between Israel and its neighbors on every single issue. They have the right to intervene; as an honest broker, they have the right to try to remove any obstacle and prevent it from barring the peace move—but no more than that.

This is basically the major obstacle in this stage of the peace process, which we wholeheartedly desire. Obviously, we will certainly not surrender Israel's positions, goals, and security assets despite all our intense desire to continue the process and bring it to a successful conclusion. This is not an easy task, but we have no choice but to coolheadedly stick to the task while remaining loyal both to our desire for peace and to Israel's most crucial interests, as we have done and will continue to do.

This is a good opportunity to reassure the Israeli people that they can be confident that we will do everything not to forfeit the chances for peace, but at the same time we will not relinquish our rights and we will not leave our security undefended. Thank you [applause].

29 Nov News Conference

TA2911141691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1130 GMT 29 Nov 91

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir following his address to Israeli news editors at a ceremony marking the anniversary of the UN resolution on

the partition of Palestine and the establishment of the State of Israel; at Bet Sokolov in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] [Political correspondent Arye Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, is it possible that next Sunday the cabinet will reconsider the inner cabinet decision to go to Washington on 9 December? Is it possible that following a U.S. appeal, or a U.S. request, as well as the negative international reactions to the cabinet decision, we will arrive on 4 December?

[Shamir] Let me begin at the end. It is not true that everyone denounces the Israeli stands. We are naturally monitoring the reactions, and we have received reports from the United States, as well as other places. Many media reports have denounced the U.S. Administration's attitude to the events of recent days in connection with the date of negotiations, and so forth. We have read reports in this spirit in quite a few papers. There were similar reactions in Congress, in the wake of which letters were sent to the secretary of state complaining about the attitude to Israel's stands. Also, statements were issued by Jewish organizations.

At the same time, Israel does not wish to hinder the peace process in any way. The resolution of the Israeli Government, which convened as the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs, remains valid. At the moment, I see no reason to alter that resolution. Talks in Washington are still being pursued, and if news emanates from those quarters, perhaps some news will come from these as well.

[IDF political correspondent Natan Gutman] Mr. Shamir, do you envisage the possibility that Israel will arrive on 9 December, after the Arab countries will have been there since 4 December [words indistinct]?

[Shamir] Anything is possible, and we are taking it into consideration.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] There have been reports in the Israeli media that some kind of delegation—perhaps a low-level delegation—will arrive in the United States on 4 December, if only to discuss technical matters. Can you confirm this, sir?

[Shamir] There has been no such decision, but I do not rule out such a possibility.

[Israel Television political correspondent Gadi Sukenik] You said earlier that the job of the Americans, as the honest broker, is to remove obstacles obstructing the process, but no more. What did you mean, and are you saying thereby that they have indeed taken action beyond that?

[Shamir] I think they should cause negotiations to take place to bring about an agreement between Israel and the negotiating partners. However, they should not wait and see how things develop, and then say after two or three weeks: I am sorry, you did not reach an agreement, and I am therefore ruling this or that.

[Sukenik] Sir, you have hinted at something. Can you tell us whether, at present, the Americans tend to endorse the Arabs' stands, and if so, why?

[Shamir] I will refrain from stating that; I do not have to guess. I have said here that members of the highest echelons of the U.S. leadership have denied it. True, they did not state their precise position, but when they referred to these specific things, they said it is not the American position. I have related things as they happened.

[Sukenik] Is this denial acceptable to you, in view of what has happened since then?

[Shamir] Well, it occurred only a few days ago; this is all very new. I have no cause to doubt them, but naturally politics is not a precise science.

[Sukenik] Will these tendencies, which you have implied, make it difficult for Israel to make political progress?

[Shamir] First and foremost, they should not obstruct the negotiations as we believe they should be held: negotiations between Israel and the Arab representatives. As I said, the U.S. effort should be that of an honest broker. They should remove obstacles and attempt to keep negotiations on normal and ongoing tracks.

[HA'ARETZ correspondent Ilan Shehori] Mr. Prime Minister, in view of the difficulties incurred in talks with the Americans, and in the wake of the crisis around the special allocations to religious institutions, do you consider early elections feasible?

[Shamir] There is no connection between these issues.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] Mr. Shamir, you said it's within the Israeli consensus that there should be no withdrawal to the 1967 borders. But is there some sort of territorial concession—not that much of a concession, but some sort that you would be willing to consider?

[Shamir] If we are to judge by the Arabs' remarks, the issue revolves around full Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 lines. When at the opening ceremony of the Madrid conference President Bush used the word compromise [preceding word in English] with reference to territorial issues, the Arabs were enraged. That which is referred to as territorial compromise in Israel is regarded as a four-letter word by the Arabs. What they mean is a full and total withdrawal.

[Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, you said earlier that if something new happens on the part of the Americans, something new will perhaps occur here as well. What has to happen by Sunday for us to arrive in Washington next Wednesday?

[Shamir] I do not have to engage in speculations [preceding word in English]. Everyone understands what we want; everyone knows that we want negotiations to take place. By the way, I do not think that the peace process will stop over such a thing. There are too many elements with an interest in its taking place and in its continuation.

[Shehori] Excuse me sir, if a U.S. declaration is made recognizing the need for direct talks—in the spirit of the things you said—will this be a good enough reason for Israel to show up on the date the Americans invited us?

[Shamir] With all due respect, I am not negotiating with you.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] There are reports today in the press that on Sunday, the cabinet might reconsider its position, under certain conditions. Could you clarify your position—in light of the talks now going on in Washington?

[Shamir] I have no intention of bringing up for debate any kind of revision in the resolution made Wednesday. Naturally, someone might propose this, but until that moment, there is no reason to revise the decision.

[Golan] Will we not have a public relations problem when pictures appear showing an empty Israeli chair while the Arabs are sitting around waiting, ready to talk peace?

[Shamir] There certainly is a problem, and others will come up when we begin negotiating in a normal manner. We have to find an answer to this.

[passage indistinct]

[Shamir] I have been asked this question many times before. In the year preceding the date set for the elections, there are always speculations, guesses, and thoughts that the elections might move forward. This time, if elections are advanced, it will be by a few months only. I would not say that it is absolutely impossible, but at the same time I would not say that they will certainly take place on an earlier date than that stipulated by law.

[Unidentified correspondent] You made some remarks earlier about the way the Arabs view President Bush's remarks concerning territorial compromise. I would like to know what you think about this remark.

[Shamir] Israel's positions are well known. All that the Arabs attribute to President Bush is absolutely unacceptable to us.

Ambassador Shoval on U.S.-Israeli Relations

TA2911165391 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 29 Nov 91 p 5

[Interview with Ambassador to the United States Zalman Shoval by Rami Tal in Washington on 27 November "on the first anniversary of his holding the post" and "shortly after delivering Israel's response to the U.S. invitation to renew the talks in Washington"]

[Text] [Tal] Mr. Ambassador, Baker's spokeswoman yesterday termed the debate about the date for the talks "childish." Are we not engaged in an unnecessary and even harmful argument with the Americans over matters of procedure?

[Shoval] It would be a mistake to regard this as a procedural debate. The Israeli Government stand, which I relayed to the administration, thoroughly details its concerns and worries that the Arab partners probably do not intend to hold direct negotiations with us, but rather want to talk to the Americans.

We have asked the United States, and not for the first time, to make it plain to the Arabs, in the clearest possible way, that the negotiations must be conducted with Israel; this includes all kinds of negotiations—procedural and substantial.

Our request to move the talks to 9 December is based, among other things, on the fact that this date is truly uncomfortable for us. We have been given a very short notice, and we do not want to be presented with faits accomplis. It should be remembered that Israel has to negotiate with three delegations, one of which is double, which is no simple matter. At the same time, I do not say that it is the only reason for our request for a postponement.

[Tal] Are we not losing a lot of goodwill on the part of the U.S. Administration and public opinion because of this argument?

[Shoval] I do not think so, but that is not the main thing. It should be understood that Israel has entered this process with goodwill and hopes for peace, but also with many fears and knowledge of the risks. We have never kept secret that one of the most important factors determining Israel's decision was the presence of firm relations between Israel and the United States. U.S. support for Israel and the recognition in the Arab world that the support exists and is solid is not only a strategic and security asset for Israel, it is also a factor which, to a large degree, affects the Arab world's readiness to live in peace with us.

Whenever the Arabs believe, even wrongly, that U.S. support for us is weakening, it has a negative effect on the process. For example, the debate over the issue of assurances undoubtedly brought about a toughening in the Syrian position.

[Tal] Referring to U.S.-Israeli relations, the prime minister recently said: "I do not believe my own eyes, but I hope that the United States will return to its senses." In his meeting last week with U.S. Jews, President Bush admitted that "the past intimacy in relations with Israel no longer exists." What happened?

[Shoval] The end of the cold war and other global developments have strategically changed the U.S. relations with some of its past allies and enemies. The change includes Israel and has nothing to do with what government is in power in Israel.

It should be also remembered that the current administration, at least for now, has tremendous self-confidence concerning its foreign policy. U.S. Administrations have always been convinced that they are on a global mission. The current administration—just like President Wilson, who tried to introduce a new world order after World War I—is

also convinced that it can fulfill this task, whereas preceding administrations realized they are not omnipotent.

In general, Israel would like for the administration to have its wishes come true—naturally, not at our expense. Yet, we have to remember that sometimes wishes not only fail to come true, they also create situations that hold dangers for the future.

At the same time, I would not like my remarks to mean that there is a void between us. Practical ties between the two countries are very tight in terms of aid, security, and intelligence cooperation. It is true that these disagreements sometimes tend to get very public. I would rather call them "loud quarrels in the family."

[Tal] Many in Israel feel that the Americans tend to strike us with sudden blows. They did so during the prime minister's visit here, when they sent the invitation to Washington in the middle of the night. This is what they did in the guarantees affair when, with no advance warning, they announced that they wanted a 120-day deferral, contradicting an earlier understanding.

[Shoval] Concerning the incident during the prime minister's visit, I choose to accept the administration's explanation that they experienced a mishap. Naturally, such mishaps should not happen, because they necessarily tend to create sediments.

As for the guarantees, true, there was an understanding, which the administration is not denying, that our request would be brought up for discussion in September, after we had agreed to a deferral in March. It is true that we were not pleased with the decision, and we believe that the reasons for the deferral were unjustified. But, let us not forget, our request is something only a country on very close and intimate terms with the United States can even consider making.

Allow me to take this opportunity to declare that I do not believe we made a mistake in any part of our handling of the issue of guarantees. Some try to be wise after the fact, but they are being simply stupid in this case. The immediate issue on the agenda then, in March, was our request for emergency aid soon after the Gulf war. At first they did not want to give us anything; then they offered $200 million. Eventually, we got $650 million.

[Tal] They say that Shamir does not communicate well with the president. What do you think? How good is your communication with Baker and other senior administration officials?

[Shoval] My communication with Baker is excellent, and other levels at the embassy are on very good terms with their State Department counterparts. It is true that relations with the higher levels of the White House are less close; this is due to the special nature of this administration, and perhaps also to its relation to our government.

As for Shamir's relationship with Bush, I am no social-psychologist, but I will be very careful and say that the prime minister does not develop warm, intimate relations with political figures because of his personality and nature.

There were ups and downs here as well. I heard of mishaps before I came here (Shoval refers to the Bush-Shamir meeting in November 1989 after which Bush accused Shamir of deliberately misleading him on the issue of settlements—R.T.), but in the two meetings I attended the feeling was relatively comfortable. Both parties made an effort to keep the atmosphere friendly.

Let us not forget, however, that on one side of the table sat the prime minister of a small country—surrounded by enemies and taking terrible risks in entering the process—who feels that the future of his state, and perhaps of the whole Jewish nation, is in his hands. Across the table sat the head of the only global superpower who, when referring to issues that concern us, on more than one occasion contradicted our stands. Such a situation necessarily creates true tension.

[Tal] Do you believe that the Jewish community still identifies with Israel and supports it without reservation? In view of the president's remarks, does it find itself between the administration rock and the Israeli hard place?

[Shoval] No Jew who lives in the diaspora enjoys finding himself in conflict between the head of the state in which he lives and the country of the people he feels a part of and with whom he has a deep emotional identification. At the same time, because of the United States' special nature, consisting of a combination of peoples, Jews here have fewer complexes than elsewhere.

During the guarantees affair, U.S. Jews found themselves in a situation in which there was an impression that the president doubted their loyalty. Some maintained that the president's remark about "a thousand lobbyists, who invaded Capitol Hill" was an attempt to garner the support of the non-Jewish public against the Jews' efforts for the guarantees. This created fears of anti-Semitism.

The way I understand it, the president regrets this interpretation of his remark. It is possible that the reaction of the Jewish leadership, which was not unified, created a certain feeling of confusion, but not for long. The change could be clearly detected in the enthusiasm with which the prime minister was received in every community he visited, even in Boston, where the Jewish community is not known for its particularly hawkish stands.

Allow me to stress, since we are dealing with this issue, that ever since Simcha Dinitz was ambassador here, no Israeli ambassador has dedicated as much time and energy to the issue of ties with the Jewish communities. I enjoy the extensive assistance of my wife in this endeavor. It is my impression, and the polls confirm this, that as a result of contacts with this portion of the public, it today tends to assume more active and hawkish stands on central issues such as security, Jerusalem, and the future of Judaea and Samaria. Nevertheless, there are certain issues on which it disagrees with the government.

[Tal] You came here after you resigned from the Knesset. Are you considering running for a slot on the Likud Knesset list in the next elections?

[Shoval] Once I assumed the role of ambassador, I divorced myself of the internal political game. Nothing has happened since to make me change my mind. Quite the contrary, the more important the political issues become, the more I tend to distance myself from Israeli politics at this stage. After all, there still is time until the elections.

I served in the Knesset for 13 years. Believe me, something very extraordinary must happen to make me prefer the Knesset over what I am doing now.

Urges U.S. To Clarify Position to Arabs

TA2911204591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Israel demands that the U.S. Administration make it clear to the Arab negotiating partners that the principle that must guide the continuation of the process is that talks between the Arabs and Israel have to be held directly and not through the United States.

Our correspondent in Washington 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Zalman Shoval, Israeli ambassador in Washington, this evening held a long conversation with Dennis Ross, Secretary Baker's aide. Although no agreement has yet been reached in the discussions, and the two have decided to meet again over the weekend, Israel made it clear that, for its part, the guiding principle is that talks in Washington do not necessarily prevent negotiations in the Middle East.

Israel also demands that the United States make it publicly clear that the talks between the delegations in Washington will not be simultaneous to prevent the event from assuming a character of an ongoing international conference.

Emerging from his meeting with Ross, Ambassador Shoval said that the whole affair of the delay in the continuation of the talks could have been avoided had the Americans clearly explained those principles to the Arabs. Only direct negotiations can yield real results, Shoval said.

Commentators in Washington estimate tonight that if indeed the U.S. Administration clarifies those principles to the Arab side, the obstacle of timing could be surmounted and Prime Minister Shamir would be able to recommend to the cabinet in its meeting on Sunday [1 December] that Israel accept the original invitation to start the talks on 4 December in Washington.

Ministers Comment on Peace Talks Decision

Meridor on Peace Talks, Settlements

TA2711203591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1940 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by moderator Yoram Ronen, political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, and Knesset correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir; on the weekly "Moqed" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Ronen] Today's Inner Cabinet decision to delay the Washington talks for several days has already aroused sharp opposition criticism. Criticism from a different direction was set off by the attorney general's legal opinion on the City of David settlement and the decision not to press charges against Hanan 'Ashrawi. These are the main issues to be discussed on "Moqed" tonight with Justice Minister Dan Meridor. Good evening, Minister.

[Meridor] Good evening.

[Ronen] Mr. Meridor, the official reason given for our request for a postponement of the Washington talks has already been made public. We said we need more time to prepare for the talks, but that looks like a blatant and petty excuse, to use a phrase used by Shim'on Peres, over an unimportant dispute. It is as though we were saying to the Americans: You dictated the venue to us, and you plan to dictate many other things to us; permit us at least to dictate to you, or decide by ourselves, the the way we go about it.

[Meridor] The date is really a minor issue and not the main point. We should view things in the right perspective. We are in the midst of peace negotiations. It is a serious process. We are discussing the issues most vital to our lives, and the process will be difficult. We are currently in the first stage, in which the rules of the game are being decided. That is a very important stage for us because the balance of forces does not weigh in our favor. As we like to say, we are 50 percent of the formula, for without us there will be nothing. On the other side, however, are all the Arabs. We could say that the United States, in some of its substantive positions, does not support our positions. It is important to get the best possible rules of the game for us. Up to now, what is called our stubbornness—which Mr. Peres and others said would be responsible for there being no peace process—led to a situation in which we are conducting direct negotiations without preconditions, with the PLO not included, even though it is trying to crawl in. They are discussing not a Palestinian state, but autonomy, in Judaea and Samaria. The stubbornness was not so bad. The Arabs have now adopted a perception that is dangerous. They feel they do not have to talk to us—that it is enough to talk to the Americans. We suggested to them in Madrid to open a dialogue on the venue and timing. All the Arab delegations refused. They waited two, three weeks, and now the Americans have made a proposal. The U.S. intention, and the dishonorable way in which is was executed, is unimportant.

[Ronen] With the prime minister?

[Meridor] Yes, of course. The Arabs might think that they are talking to the Americans. It is therefore important that they understand that if they want talks, and we want them very much, then they must be with us. We made the Americans a proposal today. I assume that within days it will become clear that the talks can be resumed, and they will be resumed.

[Ronen] You say that the date is unimportant. Then why did we insist on 9 December and not 4 December, as the Americans suggested?

[Meridor] I did not say the date was unimportant; I said it was not the main thing. The main thing is what I have just said. Negotiations are conducted with Israel, not with the United States, and those who want to live in peace with us must understand that. There was talk in Madrid about turning a new page, about direct talks. Then turn a new page; talk with us. It is not only a matter of national pride. That is important, but not the main thing. If we want to reach a compromise, some sort of agreement between us and the Arabs, then the talks must be with us. The feeling that the Americans will lead us somewhere and bulldoze the way through, and that we are not a partner but are handed down dictates, is not good. We therefore made a decision, which in my view was the right decision, and I am not surprised that the United States was not angered by it, as was the opposition in Israel. I hope the talks will continue. It is for our own good.

[Ahime'ir] Minister Meridor, you said the United States was not too upset by the decision to postpone the talks. Does that mean that it was, in fact, coordinated with the United States? If the date is a minor issue, then what was the point? Is it a demonstration under the guise of a political move, especially since the delay was coordinated with the United States?

[Meridor] The delay was not coordinated. I regret to say that it was not coordinated.

[Ahime'ir] But the United States can live with it?

[Meridor] I do not know. I heard reactions on the television news a few minutes ago and understood that there was no U.S. anger. They do not belong to the Israeli opposition.

[Ronen] On the contrary, they said they are happy that Israel is coming.

[Meridor] If we managed to make then happy, then that is even better. We were not performing any demonstration. However, we are discussing images in negotiations in which Israel is facing the Arabs. It is important that they understand they have to talk to us. The conference is over; there are no more cosponsors, because there is no longer a conference. There is Israel and the Arabs. The Americans make a suggestion, and we are prepared to consider it. The way it was offered, however, when the prime minister was there and not to him, but behind his back—the Arabs see that and it can give them a bad impression. They must understand that they have to talk to us.

[Ahime'ir] In other words, it is a licensed demonstration.

[Meridor] It is not a demonstration; it is setting political rules of the game, not for the current venue, although that is important, and not for the precise date, which I hope will be decided by agreement in the coming days. This is in order to decide on how the negotiations are conducted in the near future—in another one, two, or three weeks when we start to talk about issues of substance. There will be disputes, explosions, anger. They will say we are responsible. They have to talk to us if they want to reach an agreement and not wait for the Americans.

[Sukenik] Do you believe that today's move—which does not contain conditions, but are sort of Israeli proposals or requests—will be seen by the Israeli public and those negotiating with us as hair-splitting or a futile show of strength?

[Meridor] Under no circumstance. What are we asking for? I have already said that the date is not the main issue for me. We want to reach a situation in which the talks will not be conducted with a united Arab delegation. It was agreed that there would be talks with separate delegations. We do not believe it is good for them to be conducted together. We saw that in Madrid, where had there not been a split in the Arab front, had the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation not come first, I do not know how matters would have developed. We therefore place great importance on not giving the extremists a veto. When there is a united front, the extremists dictate or try to dictate.

[Sukenik] But we did not present it as a condition for negotiations. Let us say the Americans agree to a delay of several days, but on the other conditions they tell us—and that might happen—no matter what you said, we stand firm. Come if you want to, and we will come. What was the point, since we will cave in again?

[Meridor] The question can always be asked both ways. You attach a condition to such an issue? That is not nice; it is not serious. One can say the opposite: If you do not present conditions, who will take you seriously? Therefore, I do not want to call it a condition, and I do not want to say it is not a condition. That is our position, and we will decide if we come or not, and when. We must remember that we are interested in this move. It is not a move initiated by the Arabs; it was initiated by Israel because we have always aspired to it. Virtually the entire nation has wanted to begin a peace move for many years. We are now in the midst of it. We do not go about trumpeting it all the time, but we are in the midst of a process of peace negotiations, which we have wanted. Due to its inherent difficulties, however, we must make sure we are careful about what is happening. Formidable and most serious issues are being discussed.

[Ronen] But, sir, if we go back to the United States, the administration and its representatives repeatedly say: We Americans are not prepared to be an ornament or plant in the peace talks. As you said, the Arabs are quite satisfied with that. First, there is a danger that on issues of substance the Americans will dictate to us as they have on procedural matters, and then the plant can be very prickly and painful.

[Meridor] First, I dispute that the Americans dictated to us on issues of procedure. In general, if you consider Madrid, and today's direct negotiations—which is what we are currently considering—then if you look at the

original Israeli positions and the original Arab positions, you will see how far we have come. It is not that bad, but....

[Ahime'ir, interrupting] Excuse me for interrupting you, but you say the Americans did not dictate anything to us on procedural matters. They decided on the division of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in Madrid.

[Meridor] The delegation will be a joint delegation now, too, and the Americans reiterated that in recent days. There will not be two separate delegations.

[Ronen] The speeches were separate. That was a matter of procedure.

[Meridor] That is correct. I am not saying that everything is black and white. In short articles or opposition speeches a black and white picture can be presented, but in life things are more complicated and the situation is not one which goes according to all our wishes or all their wishes. We must see things in proportion. You asked me about the U.S. role. It is not that important how we define their formal role. America is the biggest, strongest country in the world. The real question in these negotiations is which side—if I am permitted to use the expression—will get America and which will become something America plays around with.

[Sukenik] Is that the reason that in closed-door discussions the government says the Americans have not been an honest broker for some time—as was said today—but it does not publicly say so? Are they still an honest broker, after what was done to the prime minister in the United States?

[Meridor] What was done to the prime minister should not have happened. Whether it was deliberate or not is not so important; the outcome is clear. It should have been clear to those who did it. The real question is the following: The U.S. positions are clear to us; they are not new. They were decided in 1968 and 1969, and they are not exactly our positions. That is true. Therefore, we call on the Americans all the time to take one step back from the process, to permit the sides to conduct it on their own. For that reason it was important for us to sit on our own with the Arabs in Madrid, and we will sit on our own this time, too. The Americans said they will not insist on participating in the talks.

[Ronen] As you say, the U.S. positions were decided on in 1968 and 1969, but the intimate relations between us and the United States in fact no longer exist in the Bush administration.

[Meridor] I agree that this is a different administration from the previous one. I believe we should be careful in using words or expressions when defining relations between us and America. We have no interest in a deterioration of those relations. It is a different administration in many respects, but that is the current administration in the United States, and we have to be realistic. It is with that administration that we have to do everything we can to advance our interest—peace negotiations—with care, but with great seriousness. I believe we can reach an agreement, especially on the issue of self-rule in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. In my view, it is not a zero-sum game; it is one in which both sides have something to gain. If America conducts it correctly with its might and ability to influence the Arabs, there is certainly a chance of reaching an agreement which will be for our good and their good.

[Ahime'ir] Mr. Meridor, you express optimism about the possibility of reaching an autonomy agreement. What about Syria?

[Meridor] The Syrian issue is harder.

[Ahime'ir] Do we have enticing proposals for Syria that it could accept?

[Meridor] Proposals for Syria, I assume they will hear when they sit with us. I do not think they are now watching "Moqed" and waiting to hear suggestions here, but I said it is harder. Syria is an extremist country, which, according to everything we know, is right now undergoing massive rearmament in quantities and quality, including dozens of Scud missiles, improved Scud C's from North Korea, new aircraft, and Soviet tanks. Syria made a big effort in Madrid—but failed—to prevent some of the moves that occurred there. Syria is therefore still marked by me as a more extremist state, and it will be more difficult to reach an agreement with it, especially since there is no question of autonomy, but a serious question of peaceful relations. We have still not heard the Syrian leader say that he is ready for a peace accord with us. All that will come up in the negotiations.

[Ahime'ir] One more question on Syria. Would it be right to say that the prime minister's list of political priorities has slightly changed. While before Madrid the prime minister preferred an attempt to reach an agreement with Syria, it now seems that he is directing his efforts in the Jordanian-Palestinian direction. Is that your optimism about the chances of reaching a settlement on autonomy?

[Meridor] I must add, very cautious optimism. I would like to say that we have always wanted—and still want—to talk to any Arab country that wants to talk to us. The Syrians have undergone a change. They came to talk with us.

[Ahime'ir] I asked about our positions.

[Meridor] It has been my personal opinion for several years that the true partners with a serious interest in talking to us, and with whom there is a real chance of reaching peace or settling relations, are the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. We have an interest in talking to them—not with the nice ones, or insignificant people, but significant people in the field, like those who went to Madrid and to whom we spoke.

This is an interest that the PLO does not share, by the way. The PLO in Tunis does not want any accords of this kind. It

has been forced to swallow them against its will. We, however, do have such an interest, and this is where the possibility of promoting our mutual interest comes in, despite our very serious differences. The fact that I am optimistic does not mean that things will not be difficult. I again stress that the negotiations will be difficult, long, and complex. The Israeli people and the media will, I hope, develop patience and not stand around with a stopwatch, because these are very tough negotiations that will require that we be flexible when possible, but also determined and stubborn when necessary. There will have to be a little bit of both. I believe, however, that there is a chance to move forward under one condition, which should be mentioned: If the Arabs, together with Syria, manage to block any progress or to make progress in one set of negotiations conditional on the results of the negotiations with another party, then things will be difficult. Israel is interested in making progress on all sectors. We would be happy to make progress just with the Syrians; however, I think it will be harder with them than with the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and harder than with Jordan.

[Sukenik] Sir, the U.S. invitation actually already expresses the U.S. positions and implies Washington's intentions. In other words, the United States intends to force the parties, including Israel, to discuss territorial compromise. I would like to ask you the question that you and your colleagues continuously evade. Perhaps we will finally get an answer tonight. Would you personally accept any kind of territorial compromise whatsoever in return for suitable peace arrangements—the kind you dream about?

[Meridor] Are you talking about the Golan Heights?

[Sukenik] I am referring to all the fronts.

[Meridor] The answer is no, and I will explain why. We have managed to neutralize the obstacle known as territorial compromise in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The issue is not on the agenda; we are now discussing self-rule. Perhaps not everyone grasps the strength of....

[Sukenik, interrupting] It is Israel who is talking about this.

[Meridor] No, the negotiations with the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip through the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, as agreed upon by both them and the Americans, will not be over a Palestinian state, borders, or sovereignty. It will deal with one issue only: self-rule for five years.

[Ronen] With a permanent arrangement to come after five years—a permanent arrangement they see as a Palestinian state.

[Meridor] We will begin discussing the permanent solution in three years. Now, I would like to explain why this is so important. If we take an objective view of things—as far as one can be objective regarding such a virulent national conflict—we see that there is a disagreement over this land, over Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. This is a serious and profound disagreement. There are subjects that are so very important for each side—from both an emotional and practical point of view—that if we start to discuss them we will never reach agreement. Today, anyone who tries to decide difficult issues—such as sovereignty, Jerusalem, and so forth—will undoubtedly cause the negotiations to blow up. Therefore, the concept applied by Al-Sadat, Begin, and Carter at Camp David stipulated that these issues be left for the second stage and that only self-rule be discussed now. Thus, I can retain my position without giving up an inch, while, to my regret, the other party can also retain his position.

[Sukenik] Yes, but that is now. What about in the future? What happens in five or 10 years?

[Meridor] But that is the whole idea, Gadi. If we try to decide issues of such critical national importance now, everything will explode. There is still not one Arab ruler, certainly not King Husayn or the Palestinians in the joint delegation, who has ever been willing to reach a territorial compromise over even one inch—not even one inch. Therefore, this is a nonstarter [preceding word in English] and cannot lead to any progress, because although there are Jews who refuse to give up anything and others who accept some sort of compromise, there are no Jews in Israel—I hope—that are willing to give up everything. That is why the idea, which was accepted, not to discuss sovereignty or the question of borders now, but to confine ourselves to a discussion of self-rule, and to let each party retain his demands, dreams, and desires, was such a brilliant and successful one. If we can agree on this, then after five years of self-rule, without terror or fear, and after witnessing some real Jewish-Arab cooperation, everything will look different. The negotiation process will then be different, and I cannot tell you what will happen then.

[Ronen] Mr. Meridor, let us move to judicial matters. The government will soon have to discuss the attorney general's report on the settlement in the City of David. What is your opinion on this matter? Should the settlers be evicted from the City of David, as the attorney general's report at least implies, or should they be allowed to remain there and even expand the settlement, as Construction and Housing Minister Sharon demands?

[Meridor] First of all, we are talking about Jerusalem. This is the very heart of Jerusalem, the historic City of David. If any one of you or any viewer has not been there, then I recommend he visit the place. When you are in the City of David, you understand what is meant by the expression Jerusalem surrounded by mountains. This used to be Jerusalem, and one can see the surrounding mountains.

[Ahime'ir] Did you visit the settlers in the City of David?

[Meridor] I visited the City of David dozens of times before this last settlement was established. I have not been there recently, but I was there often and I think it is really a beautiful place in every way. The attorney general, however, dealt with an entirely different matter. I think the attorney general made the right decision. He did not rule that they

should or should not be evicted. He stated one thing. One can say that there is a struggle between two principles here. One person says that this is his home, but the police reply that if he goes there it will cause riots and we will have to use force. This is a serious dilemma, and there are rulings on similar issues, both in Israel and abroad. The attorney general ruled that the previous dilemma does not apply in our case. This is not property that people bought, which constitutes their private dwelling, and now the police come and say they cannot help. This is a case in which the Israeli Government and its institutions purchased or came into possession of this land in some way—and the manner in which it came into possession of the land was examined—and it proposes on the one hand to rent the location to people for a certain price, while at the same time claiming that it cannot protect them. I think the attorney general was right in telling the cabinet ministers that they simply have to decide. This is not a private individual with property. The government gave the people the land and then said it was difficult to protect them. This is a little strange.

[Ahime'ir] What is your opinion? Should they be allowed to stay or not?

[Meridor] That is why the attorney general said that if there really are security considerations, as stated in the police report to the attorney general, and the detrimental effect on security is great, and a large police deployment is needed to protect the settlers, then the government must decide one way or another.

[Ahime'ir] So what will you decide, Mr. Meridor?

[Meridor] The issue will come before the cabinet. I think that Jews can live in the City of David. I think that the way must be found, as this was not carried out in the right way. It was in fact harmful, and I criticized it on the same night or the next day. I think that the way the issue came up damaged their cause, and I believe that the right way and time must be found. This should be left to the cabinet and it will be discussed in one of the coming sessions. [passage omitted]

[Ahime'ir] Should the law [banning meetings with members of terror organizations] perhaps be, not revoked, but modified so that only someone who meets with the PLO in a manner that could endanger state security would be prosecuted and punished? Would you consider such a modification of the law?

[Meridor] The assumption underlining the law was that any legitimization of the PLO, which is a terrorist organization whose aim is to destroy Israel and kill Jews, was wrong and untenable and must be combated.

[Ahime'ir] But we just sat down opposite them in Madrid now?

[Meridor] I am glad you asked that question, because that brings us back from judicial to political matters, and in our world the two are intertwined. I am totally convinced that had the PLO been able to enter the process, there would not have been any process. We managed through a combination of force and smart maneuvering—and, I admit, with the aid of the United States—to put the PLO in a continuous dilemma of whether to try to stop the move and run the risk of having the local nationalists, who want this move even though they do not like us and are not ardent Zionists, go ahead without the organization or even fight it.

[Ahime'ir] Would you consider any changes in the law?

[Meridor] I am not considering any changes in the law. There is no such proposal now, and I do not want to discuss this right now, because it carries a dangerous political message. We have to continue without the PLO, because that is the only way to make progress in the peace process, with the PLO being dragged along. Nothing would have come out of it if the PLO had led the process. [passage omitted]

Sharon—Government Lost 'Credibility'

TA2811171791 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Studio interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon by Dan Margalit on the "'Erev Hadash" program—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Margalit] You have been interviewed numerous times, and before we went to Madrid you said that we should first demand that the terrorist attacks stop and that arms shipments to the Arab countries cease. This was your strategy for the negotiations and it was not accepted by the government. You nevertheless remained in the cabinet. Then there was Madrid, and yesterday the Inner Cabinet made a decision intended, perhaps, to express symbolically our rejection of a U.S. dictate. We deferred going to Washington from 4 to 9 December. Why did you not vote for this?

[Sharon] Well, I support a peace process. I believe that a peace process, if well handled, could after great efforts bring peace, but definitely not the way we are going now. I....

[Margalit, interrupting] Before you go on, could the present government pull back from the mistakes you claim it has made?

[Sharon] Look, there is generally a problem with political negotiations. In commercial negotiations, if you cannot agree on something you shove the papers aside and start something new. It is much more difficult to do that in political negotiations. If you reach a certain stage in political negotiations, you must always start again from that stage even if you stop the talks. That is the starting point for the next stage.

[Margalit] That means that in your opinion Messrs. Shamir, Levi, and Arens and their delegated officials cannot continue.

[Sharon] I tried to convince them that this move was wrong, but I failed. We live in a democracy. Another

decision was made. How can we abandon this path and take another line? Two things could facilitate this: first, some kind of fundamental change in the Middle East—some development that we have so far not witnessed—and second, a different leadership. This is generally a prerequisite for trying a different direction.

[Margalit] But now, in the absence of a different leadership, why did you not support this decision, which as least expressed some displeasure with the U.S. dictate?

[Sharon] Look, I proposed another direction. I suggested dealing with substantive issues that could be explained from the very beginning. One cannot fight over procedural issues because erosion sets in and nothing is left of them. Who can explain the difference between Cyprus and Rhodes? Who can explain the difference between the 4th and the 9th? I told my colleagues yesterday that they should have listened to me, and I speak with real regret because I am very concerned, I have never been as concerned as I am today. Regrettably, they did not accept my position and chose the path of autonomy, which leads to a Palestinian state. I told them, however, not to set these conditions.

[Margalit] The five-day deferral?

[Sharon] Yes, because they will not be able to insist on them anyway and we will be shamed and humiliated again. I do not believe that we can insist on anything other than clear, fundamental issues: an end to the arms race, a halt to terror, and Jerusalem.

[Margalit] In other words, you assume that Israel will be there on 4 December?

[Sharon] I do not know, and this entire issue is not important. This is not serious. We must struggle because we are facing what I see as a very difficult situation. We must present the situation as it is. We must free the Israeli people from the handicap that was imposed on them. This handicap is manifested in our acceptance of terror Scud missiles as a necessary evil. We are now facing a danger that is taking form before our very eyes—a Palestinian state is being established—and this must be stopped. We must, therefore, take a different direction and adopt a different plan, which may after great effort lead to peace. We must make sure of one thing. There is one sure way to spoil relations. There is something called trust and credibility. If you say something, you must adhere to it until the end. If you do not keep your word, you lose your credibility, and this is what has happened to us in recent months.

Political Echelon Seeks End to Talks Dispute

TA2911074191 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Nov 91 pp A1, 10

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Gay Bekhor, and Yosi Torfstein]

[Excerpts] The political echelon in Jerusalem is waiting for a personal appeal from President Bush or Secretary of State James Baker to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to dispatch the Israeli delegations for talks in Washington on 4 December. Some of the Inner Cabinet members said last night that it will be possible to end the dispute over the timing and accept the U.S. invitation as it is, if the United States finds a way to appease Shamir and present it as a request and not a dictate. [Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 29 November carries a related report by Shim'on Schiffer on page 1, adding that "sources in the Prime Minister's Office confirmed last night that Yitzhaq Shamir will agree to start the Washington talks already on 4 December, if the administration calls on Israel to do so."] Several possible compromise formulas were raised yesterday by the political echelon:

—All the delegations will present themselves in Washington on 4 December for technical preparations and separate meetings with U.S. officials for discussions on procedural matters. These preparations will continue for three days, up to the end of next week, and on Monday, 9 December, the talks on the substantive issues will begin.

—Israel will present itself for talks on 4 December in exchange for a U.S. assurance that when they are moved to Europe, the talks will be conducted with each of the Arab teams on different dates. The Americans have already hinted at their readiness to persuade the Arabs to accept such a proposal. Israel will be able to present this as an achievement, in return for which it will give up its request to postpone the Washington talks to 9 December. The United States has already informed Israel that it will make sure the delegations are physically separated in Washington. It has still not been decided if the separation will be effected by inviting the various delegations to separate buildings or by holding the talks in the same building but at different times.

Foreign Minister David Levi told a gathering of members of his Likud camp that he prays that the channels of communications with the United States will not become blocked and warned against a situation in which the Arabs come to Washington while Israel is absent from the talks. He called on the government to avoid creating crises over nonvital issues because it does not intend to insist on them.

Yesterday the defense minister's office denied that Minister Moshe Arens said in the Inner Cabinet that the Americans should be taught a lesson. One of the senior ministers who participated in the meeting insists that he heard Arens say this when he proposed postponing the vote until Sunday's cabinet meeting. Efforts were made yesterday "to lower the profile" and avoid an exacerbation of the confrontation with Washington.

If a compromise with the United states is not achieved by Sunday, Levi and other ministers might ask for a debate on the significance of the Inner Cabinet decision, claiming that there was no decision to present an ultimatum on the date for the talks or their framework. Senior government sources have already made it clear

that Israel does not condition its participation in the talks on the United States' agreeing to all the positions presented in the Inner Cabinet decision handed to it on Wednesday by Ambassador Zalman Shoval.

Among other things, Israel is asking for the negotiations to open with a meeting with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and end with a meeting with the Syrians, so that the most extreme element does not set the atmosphere in the talks. Officials in Jerusalem said, however, that this would mean that the Syrians will be waiting in Washington to meet with the Israelis from 4 December up to at least 13 December, which is unreasonable. [passage omitted]

In the meantime, a vanguard team of Foreign Ministry administration officials has already arrived in Washington. The negotiating teams have ordered plane tickets for 5 December to make use of the weekend to prepare for the talks on 9 December as decided by the Inner Cabinet. The delegation will be based in the Madison Hotel. [passage omitted]

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT adds: "Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon, will participate in the negotiating team with Lebanon and will most likely serve as joint chairman, together with Foreign Ministry Director General Yosef Hadas."]

U.S. Planning 15 Dec Multilateral Talks in USSR

TA0112122191 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Dec 91 p 3

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] The United States has informed Israel about its intention to start the multilateral negotiations between Israel and the Arabs in the USSR on 15 December.

It is still not clear in which city the talks will be conducted since the Soviets are looking for a suitable location.

The intention is to convene the foreign ministers of several dozens states from the Arab world, Europe, Japan, and Israel in the USSR to discuss a solution to the water problem in the region, environment, disarmament, and a solution to the refugee problem. Secretary Baker will head the U.S. delegation to the talks.

Shamir Aide Hopes Cicippio Release Aids MIAs

TA0212113091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The prime minister's media adviser, Ehud Gol, has welcomed the release of Joseph Cicippio and voiced the hope it will lead to the release of the missing Israeli servicemen. Gol told reporter Jack Katzenell: Of course we welcome the release of any Western hostage and share the happiness of his family. At the same time, we hope that all these processes will influence the fate of our boys.

Negotiators Comment on Prisoner Release

Slonim on Shiite Prisoners

TA0112122691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Telephone interview with Attorney Uri Slonim, member of the Israeli POW negotiating team, by Roni Daniyel—live]

[Excerpt] [Daniyel] Has there been any progress in the case of navigator Ron Arad and the MIA's from the al-Sultan Ya'qub battle, which would justify the release of prisoners from al-Khiyam prison?

[Slonim] There has been no progress in the case of our POW's and MIA's. The release of prisoners today was actually a gesture made by the State of Israel at the personal request of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. Allow me to emphasize that this was a personal gesture toward the UN secretary general, based on the belief—which we hope is well-founded—that it is within his power, in the 30 days left in his term, to promote a comprehensive agreement whereby all our POW's and MIA's will be brought back home.

[Daniyel] To what extent is the secretary general's personal schedule a determining factor in these negotiations?

[Slonim] I believe there is no personal angle, such as you mentioned. However, the very fact that the secretary general, the No. 1 diplomat in the world, is involved in such an initiative and asks for a personal gesture based on knowledge—some of which we possess and some of which we hope to possess in the future—which gives him grounds to believe that he can reach a comprehensive agreement. Seeing that our requests would be granted in the context of such an agreement we reached the conclusion that there was no reason to insist on that position.

[Daniyel] Israel has said on more than one occasion that it will not make any more gestures if it does not receive solid information, both on Ron Arad and our MIA's from the al-Sultan Ya'qub. May we infer from the fact that Israel was willing to make a gesture, albeit a personal one, that something has budged?

[Slonim] I hold the belief—which they have been sharing with us—and perhaps also the hope that it is within the power of the secretary general and his aide, Mr. Picco, to bring about a comprehensive agreement. This gives us ground to harbor more hope than in the past. [passage omitted]

Lubrani Discusses Initiative

TA0112151691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1005 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Telephone interview with Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli negotiating team on POW and MIA affairs, by Rafi Reshef—live]

[Text] [Reshef] Good day, Uri Lubrani.

[Lubrani] Good day.

[Reshef] What prompted Israel to make the additional gesture of releasing prisoners from al-Khiyam?

[Lubrani] The release should be seen as part of the UN secretary general's initiative, which has been going on for several months now in progressive stages. We are occasionally requested to make gestures in the framework of this initiative. The requests stem in part from an agreement that we would assist the secretary general in attaining the goals of his initiative before the end of his term in office and sometimes from a situation demanding an unusual act. This time it was the latter.

[Reshef] Meaning that this time, an unusual act was called for?

[Lubrani] Not really unusual, simply part of the initiative, which is now gaining momentum. I sincerely hope—we all do—that it will be successful. We must do everything we can to guarantee success.

[Reshef] If I am not mistaken, we said when we made the previous gesture that we would make no more as long as we receive no sign of life from Ron Arad.

[Lubrani] We are planning our actions in such a way as to be positive that everything we do will not only produce a sign of life, but more than that.

[Reshef] Meaning what?

[Lubrani] We want this entire initiative to be concluded by 31 December.

[Reshef] Still, the release this morning seemed to reflect, to use an understatement, an Israeli pullback; perhaps it was a surrender or a manifestation of more flexible stands.

[Lubrani] Personally, I adhere to no stands or molds where the POW and MIA affairs are concerned. I think we have to take the actions warranted by our conscience and the situation. We want to secure progress rather than stick to previous statements—and I fully stand behind what I am saying. I believe the action of today will promote the UN secretary general's initiative, which will ultimately bring the entire affair of our POW's and MIA's to a conclusion.

[Reshef] What do we hope for? To conclude the affair of Ron Arad and the MIA's in the wake of our gesture today?

[Lubrani] We have several problems: Ron Arad, the MIA's of al-Sultan Ya'qub, the SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers, and naturally, the remains of our soldiers Fink and Alsheikh.

[Reshef] Are we expecting something concrete to happen at once as a result of our gesture?

[Lubrani] I do not know that anything is going to happen today or tomorrow, but there is certainly a chance that something will start moving as of now.

[Reshef] Do you believe this time we will at last receive details about Ron Arad and....

[Lubrani, interrupting] I hope so very, very much.

[Reshef] We must not forget that the UN secretary general is ending his term in office at the end of this month. In your opinion, will a stalemate continue if nothing happens by the end of December?

[Lubrani] We will not rest until the whole affair is finished. We would like to make every possible effort to conclude it by 31 December.

[Reshef] But if that cannot be done, will it be possible to extend Perez de Cuellar's mandate—not as secretary general, but as a special envoy?

[Lubrani] I do not know. I think any such talk is premature; I want to see this whole thing finalized before he leaves.

[Reshef] Forgive me for using the words pessimistic and optimistic, but is there room for optimism in Israel today?

[Lubrani] I am always optimistic, and today a little more so.

[Reshef] Is it clear today that there is no separation—which we had feared—between the handling of the Western hostages and that of our people?

[Lubrani] If you are asking me, I have never believed that there truly was such a separation.

[Reshef] Do you mean that everything has been done in coordination with us?

[Lubrani] Not in coordination with us, but our case and that of the Western hostages are not being addressed separately.

[Reshef] Do you mean that now that all the Western hostages have been released, we have nothing to fear? That there is no danger of our being left on our own?

[Lubrani] God is great, and there is always room for fear, but I do not think this is the situation at the moment.

[Reshef] Uri Lubrani, I thank you very much for this interview and I wish us all a happy ending soon.

[Lubrani] Amen!

[Reshef] Thank you and goodbye.

Lubrani on Mutual Exchange Offer

NC0212122191 Paris AFP in English 1147 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Jerusalem, Dec 2 (AFP)—Israel is prepared to release all its Lebanese prisoners in exchange for its missing servicemen in Lebanon, a senior Israeli official said Monday.

The offer came as the pro-Iranian Revolutionary Justice Organisation (RJO) freed American hostage Joseph Cicippio in Beirut.

"We are ready to free all the Lebanese prisoners we hold, that is to say more than 200 people, in exchange for the return home of all our soldiers missing in Lebanon," Uri Lubrani said.

Israel's coordinator for Lebanon said he welcomed the RJO's statement Sunday that Cicippio was being released as part of an overall agreement for hostages and prisoners "because it proves that Israel is involved in this accord".

The U.S. hostage was freed after the release Sunday of 25 Lebanese prisoners held by an Israeli-controlled militia in southern Lebanon.

Israel has offered to release the Lebanese prisoners held by the militia and Israel in exchange for information on the fate of seven soldiers, all but one of whom are believed to be dead.

The body of one serviceman has been returned to Israel and it has received information on the death of another two soldiers via the United Nations, which since August has been mediating on the hostage crisis.

Lubrani said Israel expected to receive more information from U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar "very soon" but that no more Lebanese prisoners would be released unilaterally.

Perez De Cuellar Hopes 'To Close' Hostage File

TA2811183491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Report on interview with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar by Gid'on Kouts—recorded in Paris on 28 November]

[Text] According to Perez de Cuellar, the feeling in Israel that it is being left out of the process of freeing hostages is unjustified.

[Perez de Cuellar's remarks in French followed by the correspondent's translation] It is unjustified; I am in constant touch with Israel, Perez de Cuellar said. I am dealing with the overall problem as a humanitarian issue unconnected to the political aspects. I am happy to help the Israelis, Americans, and Germans still hostage as well as the Lebanese being held in South Lebanon and some in Israel. For me it is a humanitarian issue. I want to close this file before ending my term at the end of December.

Perez de Cuellar conferred in Paris today with French President Francois Mitterrand. He leaves here for New York to be present when the appointment of his successor Butrus Ghali is confirmed. He advises the next UN secretary general to behave as he has, coolly and patiently.

Spanish Prime Minister Arrives for Visit 2 Dec

TA0212061291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez arrived in Israel late last night for an official visit. It is the first such visit by a Spanish leader since the two countries established diplomatic relations less than six years ago.

Spanish officials say Gonzalez will urge Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to stop settlements in the territories and offer land for peace to the Palestinians. Gonzalez will also meet Palestinian activist Faysal al-Husayni and Labor leader Shim'on Peres.

Gonzalez returns to Spain tomorrow.

Meets Shamir, Discusses Peace Talks

TA0212101991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that Europe must play a role in the multilateral stage of the peace process in the fields of cooperation and economic integration.

Mr. Shamir was speaking with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez at the start of the latter's visit to Israel. Their meeting, which was held in private, lasted approximately 90 minutes. The two men were afterwards joined by their advisers.

Shamir urged his guest to influence the Arab countries to hold direct negotiations with Israel and instill an atmosphere of trust in the talks.

Notes 'Profound' Ties

TA0212121391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez' historic visit to Israel got off to a quiet start. This morning, Prime Minister Gonzalez held the customary visit to Yad Vashem. The state ceremonies that had been planned to mark the commencement of his visit were canceled due to the weather. Consequently, his initial statements were heard by our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon.

[Begin recording] [Ayalon] This is an official and political visit, following the renewal of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Felipe Gonzalez declared. He emphasized that he had considered the absence of diplomatic relations between the two countries abnormal.

[Gonzalez, in Spanish] This is a political visit in the true sense of the word, following the establishment of diplomatic relations, whose absence was a historical anomaly between our two countries. I think it denotes something more than the establishment of diplomatic relations, and that is our very profound, historical relationship.

[Ayalon] Gonzalez had earlier met with Prime Minister Shamir for 90 minutes. After his visit to Yad Vashem, the Spanish guest recounted the meeting and said that he had discussed a series of issues with the prime minister: the regional situation; bilateral relations; Europe and the peace process. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Meets Levi, Discusses Israel in EEC

TA0212143791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1305 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Report by Gid'on Remez; from the daily "Foreign Affairs" reel]

[Text] Gonzalez' meeting with Foreign Minister Levi was longer than scheduled, as was his meeting this morning with the prime minister. Therefore, he sounded very convincing when he told me later: We conducted a thorough discussion of questions we had broached earlier—the peace process and Israel's relations with EEC and with Spain.

[Gonzalez speaks in Spanish, followed by Remez' translation] Gonzalez describes the talks as quite constructive. Did you agree on all the issues you have specified? There was a good atmosphere for a dialogue, said the Spanish prime minister diplomatically.

Also describing the meeting, Foreign Minister Levi focused on the prospects of Israel's much-desired inclusion in the economic space now being established around the EEC. The joint commission has already discussed this issue several times, but has made no progress so far.

[Begin recording] [Levi] Our talk was a follow-up on a long conversation I had with him in his office in Madrid. Among other issues, we discussed Spain's support for Israel's admittance into the EEC economic area. Spain's support is naturally vital, and for that reason, I appealed to him at that time and he promised to look into the matter. Today we were able to go into detail on Spain's outlook on this issue and to discuss certain very important advice which he offered to me and which he promised his aides would raise at debates in Europe. Thus, I have found an attentive interlocutor who kept the promise that Spain would show understanding for Israel's needs and act for a unanimous European stand, with Spain supporting of our positions.

[Remez] Did you discuss Spain's role beyond hosting the Madrid conference, such as the possibility that it would employ its influence and good ties with the Arab countries for our goals?

[Levi] Naturally, this issue has been long on the agenda of Israeli-Spanish talks on different levels. Since Spain regards itself as a bridge between Israel and the Arab world and between the West and the Arab world and Israel, we asked them to use their clout to help us achieve a more open dialogue. This is a historic opportunity. It is high time we and the Arabs met here in the region and showed all the region's nations that peace meant for this area is not discussed in faraway countries. I hope the steps we have taken with Spain and with other elements will produce results and persuade certain parties.

[Remez] Could it be said that Gonzalez has shown himself ready to assist us with this matter?

[Levi] Well, the talk was very friendly, and the same word could describe his attitude. It should be remembered that Gonzalez was the person who made the decision to establish diplomatic ties with Israel. His stage-by-stage approach is unique. Right now, it is the stage of the establishment of economic and technological cooperation between our two countries. This effort is bearing results. [end recording]

Egyptian Delegation Welcomes Talks Decision

TA2711191691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi met with an Egyptian parliamentary delegation this afternoon and reported to them on the Inner Cabinet decision on the peace process. We are happy to hear that Israel will come to Washington on 9 or 10 December, the five parliamentarians responded. They came to Israel to reciprocate the visit paid by Likud Knesset members to Egypt about a month ago. Gil Litman reports from the Foreign Ministry:

The main subject in the meeting was, of course, the continuation of the peace process and the talks in Washington. At the outset of the meeting, the foreign minister reported to his guests on Israel's affirmative reply to the United States.

[Begin recording of unnamed head of Egyptian delegation in English] We are very happy that Israel accepted, will start the negotiations in the 9th or 10th of December. That is very good, and will be very fruitful for all the countries. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Levi reiterated his hope that 'Amr Musa would visit Israel as promised. The Egyptians thanked the foreign minister for instructing the Israeli representative in the United Nations to support Butrus Ghali's candidacy for UN secretary general. The five Egyptians return home tomorrow after a five-day visit as guests of the Likud.

Sharon Proposal Redefines Central District

TA2911094391 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 29 Nov 91 p 23

[Report by Shlomo Dror]

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon yesterday presented the government with a proposal to

approve retroactively all the contracts the ministry signed illegally with builders in 1990 and 1991. It also suggests including parts of Judaea and Samaria in the definition of the country's Central District. The Construction and Housing Ministry has still not made public the proposal, which was submitted to the Prime Minister's Office.

The proposal includes several clauses. The first clause suggests that the Treasury sign all the building contracts undertaken illegally during 1990-1991. One of the clauses recommends adding settlements situated beyond the Green Line—such as Ari'el, Bet Arye, Ma'ale Adumim, Betar, and others—to what is defined as the Central District, which runs from Ashdod to the Haifa suburbs. The significance of the proposal is that the Construction and Housing Ministry will be able to claim that massive building is under way in the Central District (but really in Judaea and Samaria), countering the Treasury's claim that building is being concentrated in the periphery, contrary to government decisions. It also means legitimizing ongoing massive construction in Judaea and Samaria under the definition: "Building in the Central District."

Another clause proposes that 25 percent of the construction be carried out in the center of the country.

The proposal also includes a clause suggesting that 5 million shekels be approved for the purchase of houses from Jerusalem contractors, another 4 million shekels for reconstruction of housing in Jerusalem, and an additional 4 million shekels for security purposes, probably for guarding the Muslim Quarter, Silwan, and other areas in East Jerusalem.

Attorney General To Examine Housing Overspending

TA3011184391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Moda'i has asked Attorney General Yosef Harish to investigate whether the director general of the Housing Ministry violated the Budget Law by overspending 4.5 billion shekels. Moda'i also wants an investigation of accusations that Housing Ministry officials transferred funds from one part of the budget to another without the approval of the Knesset Finance Committee. Tomorrow, the finance minister will send documents to Attorney General Harish that relate to the allegations against the Housing Ministry

Despite Moda'i's actions, Prime Minister Shamir has decided not to raise the allegations tomorrow, during the weekly cabinet session. Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon was prepared for discussion on the issue, and sent Shamir a compromise to end his dispute with Moda'i, but the prime minister apparently prefers to see Sharon and Moda'i settle their differences over the budget by themselves. [passage omitted]

State Attorney Given Extension on Silwan Issue

TA0112113791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] The High Court of Justice has given the State Attorney's Office 15 days to submit an affidavit concerning the settlement in Kefar Shiloah. The state attorney's representative claimed that the attorney general's legal opinion had been submitted to the prime minister, who said the cabinet would discuss the matter soon. The court ordered the State Attorney's Office to pay the trial expenses of 2,500 shekels.

Vanunu Supporters Demonstrate at Dimona

TA3011175591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] This afternoon for the first time a protest demonstration was staged in front of the Dimona nuclear reactor by supporters of Mordekhay Vanunu. Some 50 people from Israel and abroad held a protest rally at the Rotem Junction. They called for the dismantling of the reactor; a halt in the manufacture of bombs at the facility; and demilitarization of the Middle East in terms of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. They also demanded that Vanunu be released because he committed himself to serving the public's right to know.

Gid'on Spiro, who organized the demonstration, called on the members of the Knesset to break the silence surrounding the Nuclear Research Center Negev in Dimona. A large police force was on site, but did not intervene.

Defense Sources on Jazzin Withdrawal Issue

TA2811125291 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Nov 91 pp A1, 8

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] Defense sources believe that the U.S. Administration will make use of the Jazzin issue as the next test in the political process. Based on this assessment, there will be U.S. involvement in the anticipated negotiations between the Israeli and Lebanese delegations. This means Israel will be forced to give up its control and that of the SLA [South Lebanese Army] in the Jazzin enclave.

The U.S. Administration will support transfer of the control in the Christian enclave to the Lebanese Army, according to that assessment. U.S. Administration experts believe that Jazzin is the weak point in Israel's defense policy since its commitment to that sector is weaker from a security viewpoint; therefore, the process should start there.

The U.S. experts hope that progress over Jazzin will get the process, which will also include Syria, moving and will lead to agreements between Israel, Syria, and Lebanon on the military and political situation throughout Lebanon. In the view of Israeli defense sources, it is doubtful whether Israel would be able to stand firm in the face of U.S. pressure on Jazzin; therefore, Israel must

be prepared to work out a new policy on the region. The sources claim that it would be a mistake to continue insisting on control of Jazzin.

This view was strengthened by studying the wording of the U.S. invitations. Clearly spelled out is that in the first stage of negotiations between Israel and Lebanon, the sides will concentrate on working out security arrangements in the Jazzin area. In the meantime, tension is growing in south Lebanon after the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] called on the commander of the Lebanese Army brigade deployed in the area to take actions to foil Hizballah terrorist activities.

Lebanese Army elements fear that the IDF will initiate a wide-ranging land operation in the security zone from the north. If that happens contact might be made between units of the Lebanese Army and IDF soldiers, which might lead to live-fire incidents between the two sides.

Military sources stress that even when a political process is going on the IDF is responsible for security in the northern region and if the need arises the Army must not be restricted in carrying out actions aimed at foiling attacks.

Nevertheless, the IDF admits that the political situation influences the scope of military activities in the region. "Jazzin is only the first step. Afterward, the pressure will continue to abandon the security strip," the defense sources said. They believe that there will be no choice but to evacuate IDF forces from all of Lebanon.

'No Intention' To Permit Return of Syrian Druze

TA2811184591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Report by Yo'el Dar]

[Text] Peace between Israel and Syria remains out of reach and more a vision than a reality, but that does not prevent the Druze living on the other side of the border from asking the authorities of both countries to permit them to come back to live in Magdal Shas, Mas'adah, Buq'ata, and 'Ayn Qunyah as part of the family reunion plan. Dozens of such requests, as well as petitions by many Syrian Druze interested in visiting relatives on the Golan Heights, have piled up at International Red Cross headquarters and Interior Ministry offices in Nazareth and Damascus.

Avino'am Yehezqeli, head of the population registry office in the north, confirmed the phenomenon, but stressed that, despite pressure exerted by Golan Druze elders, there is no intention to permit entire families to return to villages they abandoned almost 24 years ago. Israel is, however, prepared to make humanitarian gestures, such permitting relatives to visit or individuals to cross into our territory for weddings or meetings with ailing parents.

Students from the Golan Heights can study at Damascus tertiary education institutions. The issue of border crossings at al-Qunaytirah by Syrian Druze to relatives on the Golan Heights is up to the Syrian authorities, and at this stage the are not inclined to go that far.

Delegation Departs for Washington Talks 2 Dec

JN0212101591 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1000 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The Jordanian side in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation headed by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali left Amman for Washington today to take part in the bilateral negotiations between Arab states and Israel due to start in the U.S. capital on Wednesday [4 December].

Meanwhile, spokeswoman for the Palestinian side in the joint delegation Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said some technical problems had caused the delay in the departure of the Palestinian side. She said the Palestinian delegation will head for Washington tomorrow instead of today.

In a statement to the French news agency, Dr. 'Ashrawi denied that the United States had refused to grant visas to some Palestinian delegates.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Amman 1 Dec

JN0112165691 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1626 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, arrived in Amman this evening on a visit to Jordan. During the visit he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn. He was received upon arrival by His Excellency al- Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the prime minister; 'Ali al-Suhaymat, deputy prime minister and transport minister; al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador to Jordan; the Palestinian Liberation Army commander; and the Palestinian Embassy staff. Mr. 'Arafat is accompanied by PLO Executive Committee Members Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and 'Abdallah Hurani.

In a statement to Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, our political affairs correspondent, 'Arafat said his visit to Jordan falls within the framework of the consultations and coordination between Jordan and the PLO.

[Begin 'Arafat recording] I had to make this visit to meet with his majesty the king, with my brother the prime minister, and with the brother officials here in Amman in order to coordinate our stands on the Palestinian, Jordanian, Arab, and international levels. At the same time we are coordinating with the brothers in Egypt, like we did today with his Excellency President Husni Mubarak during a positive, constructive meeting that I, and my brothers Yasir ['Abd-Rabbuh] and 'Abdallah [Hurani], had with him this morning. That meeting fell within the context of the joint Arab action to achieve further coordination, solidarity work, and blessed, brotherly efforts in order to be able, God willing, to preserve our Arab rights amid these international conditions. [end recording]

Comments Upon Arrival

JN0112205891 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1942 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Excerpts] His excellency Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman today on a short working visit to Jordan, during which he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and hold talks with his excellency the prime minister and senior officials to discuss joint Jordanian-Palestinian coordination on the issues raised in the forthcoming bilateral and regional talks between the Arab states and Israel. [passage omitted]

In statements to journalists at the airport, 'Arafat said he is visiting Amman to meet with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials within the context of the Arab coordination preceding the bilateral talks, with the aim of preserving Arab rights.

He stressed the need to coordinate positions on the bilateral and Arab levels at this important stage which precedes the bilateral talks, scheduled to be held next Wednesday, 4 December, in Washington.

Answering a question on relations between Saudi Arabia and the PLO, 'Arafat said: The position of King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and his statements in support of Palestinian rights constitute support for Arab solidarity and the Palestine question, especially at the time when we are facing the schemes of Zionism which speak for themselves through the serious statements made by its leaders.

'Arafat stressed the Arab character of Jerusalem, the first qiblah, the third holiest mosque, and the point from which Prophet Muhammad, God's blessings and peace be upon him, made his nocturnal journey.

'Arafat said he hopes to visit Damascus within the context of his current tour to coordinate political positions between the PLO and Syria before the bilateral phase of the peace conference. He stressed the importance of such a visit. [passage omitted]

Confers With Prime Minister

JN0212125691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, at his office at the Prime Ministry at noon today. 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, attended the meeting.

During the meeting, they reviewed and assessed the course of the peace process, especially within the context of joint Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, as well as coordination with the Arab parties.

In press statements following the meeting, Yasir 'Arafat said: We were pleased to meet with His Majesty King Husayn last night in a long working session during which we reviewed many important issues, foremost being our joint policy toward the bilateral negotiations and issues related to them, particularly the principles on which these negotiations are based. Foremost of these principles are the five points U.S. President George Bush presented in his initiative.

He added: We also reviewed the issues of Jerusalem, settlement activity, the transitional phase and our view of it, international protection for our people, and other issues we should discuss prior to the start of these talks.

'Arafat also said that during the talks they tackled the issue of multilateral talks and how to deal with them on the Arab level, especially since we are concerned with having full coordination among all Arab parties in this regard.

Regarding his meeting with the prime minister, 'Arafat said: We are now continuing discussion of certain technical aspects related to the continuation of the peace process and dialogue in Washington.

Meets With King Husayn

JN0212164991 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the al-Nadawah Palace this evening Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. They held a comprehensive evaluation of the peace process and its developments.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and Royal Hashemite Court Chief 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah. The meeting was also attended by PLO Executive Committee members Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, 'Abdallah Hurani, and Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, as well as the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

King Issues Palestinian Solidarity Day Message

JN2911142791 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1204 GMT 29 Nov 91

["Text" of King Husayn's message to (Absa Klodialo), chairperson of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, marking the International Day of Solidarity With the Palestinian People—read by announcer]

[Text] Chairperson of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People: The annual anniversary of the International Day of Solidarity With the Palestinian Arab People is marked this year amid very significant developments with regard to the Palestine question, developments that are unprecedented since the beginning of the aggression against the national and pan-Arab rights of the Palestinians in the land of their forefathers—Palestine.

In late October, a peace conference on the Middle East was held in Madrid under the cosponsorship of the two superpowers. This conference is the beginning of a comprehensive peace march based on Security Council Resolutions No. 242, issued in 1967, and No. 338, issued in 1973, which epitomize international consensus on the essence of a just and honorable political settlement represented in the restoration of the occupied Arab territories in return for security and the recognition of Israel.

Recognizing the central nature of the Palestine question in the Arab-Israeli conflict and realizing the injustice done to the Palestinians at the hands of Israel, a Palestinian-Israeli path has been formulated. In accordance with this path, the two sides will agree within one year from the peace march, which began early this month, on arrangements pertaining to a transitional period. This will enable the Palestinian people to assume their natural right to control their resources and to run their affairs in preparation for the exercise of their right to self-determination, which should crown the final stage of the peace process.

While we are satisfied with this positive development in the Palestine question which, after international detente, became an area of cooperation among the international forces whose relations were until lately characterized by competition, we cannot be overly optimistic in this early stage. The international changes, represented by the termination of the cold war and the subsequent positive consequences that have entrenched peace in the world, have removed the structural obstacles to resolving the Palestine question and implementing international legitimacy.

However, these positive developments have not been matched by a change in the Israeli ideology governing the policy of the current Israeli leadership toward the Arab-Israeli conflict. At a time when the Arab states and the PLO—the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—responded to the three [as heard] sides' efforts to hold the peace conference, Israel has remained entrenched behind its hardline positions, epitomizing its policy based on force, its denial of the Palestinian people's national rights, and its rejection of the equation of land for peace. The best testimony to this is the fact that Israel is continuing its settlement policy in the occupied territories, despite the atmosphere of peace that has begun to appear in the region and the world alike.

Hence, I say that there is the need for a large-scale and comprehensive process to education Israel as to the importance of peace, and to help it abandon the fortress mentality with which it lives. Other testimonies to Israel's policy of avoiding the peace currents are its insistence on keeping the United Nations, the international institution which represents the basic framework for international cooperation, on the sidelines of the political moves that are accompanying the current peace process, and which are viewed as the most prominent example of the present cooperation between East and West.

Although the United Nations is not directly taking part in sponsoring negotiations between the various sides, its role in this issue cannot remain marginal. The Security Council is still the body concerned with safeguarding global security and peace, and the UN resolutions continue to be the real expression of international legitimacy. Therefore, The United Nations should continue to play the role of a final surrogate for the Palestinian question, in its capacity as the protector of international legitimacy and the organization that is responsible for global security and peace. So, we believe that the United Nations, including your esteemed committee, can contribute to the peace process and do much

to ensure its success. The essence of our committee's work should be the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, which you have adopted as a basic goal for your persistent and sincere efforts over more than two decades.

Meanwhile, we hope that the peace process and the current negotiations will take the political and ethical course that reflects legitimacy and justice and not military force to enable the region's states to abandon the arms race policy, not to miss the desire for existence, and not to dissipate valuable efforts to start the peace march, as well as the good intentions of many people in Israel's sweeping desire to impose a fate accompli.

The Palestinian people have suffered much, have been wronged, and their rights were encroached upon in violation of their human rights and the principle of international law. Therefore, it is time to unify efforts to bring them justice, especially since they are extending their hands without reservation to reach a just peace and are accepting direct negotiations with Israel, which they have been calling for since the June war of 1967. For our part, we have done all within our power, based on our belief in the justice of Palestinian demands and in harmony with our pan-Arab obligations and the historical ties between the Jordanian and Palestinian people, to support their legitimate struggle and defend their rights and interests out of our desire to reach a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace, and to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question in accordance with international legitimacy.

The latest example of our pan-Arab and principled commitment to the Palestinian Arab people is our agreement to enter the existing peace process together, by way a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Jordan, which has not hesitated to offer sacrifices for the sake of its brothers in their ordeal, believes that what it has done reflects a national Jordanian position and pan-Arab duty epitomizing the cohesion of the two fraternal peoples in Jordan and Palestine, which recorded the epic of steadfastness together and which are aspiring to portray peace together. Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother King Husayn.

King Receives Egypt's al-Baz, Mubarak Message

JN0212164691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at al-Nadwah Palace today, in the presence of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the Egyptian president's office for political affairs and the Foreign Ministry's first under secretary.

Dr. al-Baz conveyed to His Majesty King Husayn his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's greetings, and an oral message from President Mubarak, dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries, the current situation, and the peace march.

Attending the meeting were Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Royal Court Chief 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, and the Egyptian ambassador in Amman.

Cairo Summit With Egypt Set for 'Coming Week'

JN3011171491 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 29 Nov 91 pp 1, 29

[Text] Amman—An Egyptian-Jordanian summit will be held in Cairo in the coming week to patch up relations and discuss developments on the peace process. Jordanian political sources told AL-BAYAN the proposed summit was the subject of a letter carried by Jordan's deputy prime minister from King Husayn to President Mubarak.

According to the sources, Amman and Cairo are in contact to set the date and place for the meeting. It is believed the summit will be held in the latter part of next week, in advance of the start of the Washington talks between Arab states and Israel.

AL-BAYAN learned that the summit, which will mark the first trip by the Jordanian monarch to Egypt since the Gulf crisis, will address four issues: Bilateral ties that soured with conflicting stands on the Gulf crisis, putting relations back on track, an overall appraisal of the Madrid conference and the peace efforts, and intra-Arab coordination at the bilateral and multilateral talks. King Husayn and President Mubarak will also talk about Jordanian-Gulf relations. Jordan wants Egypt to mediate with the Gulf states to repair relations affected by Jordanian support for Saddam Husayn. Jordan is also said to be interested in a reactivation of the Arab Cooperation Council, minus Iraq. Egypt had frozen its membership in the group.

In recent contacts with Egypt through diplomatic channels, the Jordanian monarch expressed an interest in opening a new chapter in Jordan's relations with Arab states, now that the Gulf crisis is over.

'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat Elected House Speaker

JN0112151391 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn has said that our acceptance of the invitation to join the peace conference was prompted by a concern on our part to protect our homeland and to shoulder our responsibilities toward our people, nation, and future generations. It is also a contribution by us to the efforts being made to promote the interests of the Palestinian people, whom we have always committed ourselves to support and to help so that they can regain their sovereignty and rights over the soil of their homeland. Thus, we have approached peace confident in the ability of our people to tackle the challenges of an era of just peace that calls for a clear vision, a commitment to fundamentals, and boldness in confrontation.

In his speech from the throne opening the third ordinary session of the 11th term of the Parliament this morning, his majesty stressed that coordination with brother Palestinians

is ongoing and undertaken in the interest of desired results, especially with regard to the formula of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the fundamentals they have adopted in their approach to the peace conference. Coordinated effort has also been undertaken to restore Arab solidarity and so strengthen the bonds of friendship, joint destiny, and the interests of the peoples of the Arab League states as a result of a faith in the unity of the nation and the defense of the future of its children. [passage omitted]

After His Majesty King Husayn left the Parliament building, the Senate held its first session under its speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi, with His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shair and the cabinet in attendance. [passage omitted]

During this session, the Senate elected the committee that will reply to the king's speech. The committee is composed of Ahmad 'Ubaydat, Khalil al-Salim, Akram Zu'aytir, Muhammad Rasul al-Kilani, Kamil al-Sharif, and Jum'ah Hammad.

The House of Representatives then held its first session under the eldest member, 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu. The session began with the reading of a royal decree postponing the convocation of the third ordinary term of the House of Representatives until the beginning of December. A royal decree on the convocation of the ordinary session was also read. The eldest member then declared the floor open for nominations to the speakership of the House. Deputy 'Abd-al-Majid al-Shuraydah, the candidate put forward by the Constitutional and National Blocs, then took the floor and announced that he was withdrawing from elections for the speakership in favor of the candidate from the Islamic Movement, Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, who won by acclaim. [passage omitted]

Cicippio Free, Headed for Damascus

NC0212094491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0936 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] According to an exclusive report by the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY, U.S. hostage Joseph Cicippio has been set free and is on his way now to Damascus. This also has been confirmed by sources close to the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon.

Reports say that two U.S. hostages will be released before the end of this week.

Al-Tufayli: Hostage Issue To End 'by Christmas'

NC0112194991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Excerpts] AFP has cited a U.S. source in Damascus as saying that U.S. Hostage Joseph Cicippio will be released tomorrow. A Syrian Foreign Ministry official expected the release of American Joseph Cicippio tomorrow and also expected the release of the last two U.S. hostages, Terry Anderson and Alann Steen, by the end of next week. [as heard] [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, [former Hizballah Secretary General] Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli said the hostage crisis will end by Christmas but that more time is needed to free all Arab prisoners held by Israel. He added that Hizballah is working for the release of all detainees and hostages, whether Lebanese, non-Lebanese, or Westerners.

Italian Official in Beirut Fears Hostage Dead

AU2911150791 Rome ANSA in English 1250 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] (ANSA) Beirut, November 29—"I have the net impression that Alberto Molinari is dead," Italian foreign undersecretary Claudio Lenoci said here, on his arrival for a work visit, in reference to the Italian national taken hostage in 1985.

Molinari was kidnaped while crossing the "green line" which divided the Muslim and Christian sectors of the Lebanese capital and since then there has been no news of him except rumors that he had died.

"The affair has never been very clear" Lenoci affirmed, "and even the latest hostages to be released had no news of Molinari. They have either been totally silent about him or speculated that he was dead."

The foreign undersecretary then recalled how Italy has never ceased in investigating the fate of its only hostage in Lebanon. "No mission here has ever taken place in which adequate steps were not taken to see to the bottom of the matter and even Premier (Giulio) Andreotti made a specific request for this to Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi," when the latter visited Rome last October.

Lenoci, who arrived last night and continues to meet Lebanese officials today, added he was not optimistic over being able to resolve the question of Molinari's fate in his talk here.

In his talks with Lebanese officials, Lenoci will review Lebanon's reconstruction, after its 14-year civil war, the Middle East peace conference and today will sign an economic and financial cooperation accord which includes the granting of over 100 million dollars in special aid.

The aid is designed to help cover the losses caused to the Lebanese economy because of the Gulf war. Similar aid has been given to Egypt, Jordan, Turkey and Tunisia. An additional 35 million dollars will be given in the framework of the three-year 1991-93 cooperation accord.

Thanks to the peace imposed in Lebanon by Syria, Beirut has been able to begin work on reconstructing the capital which had been 90 percent destroyed. At present there is a total lack of basic infrastructures and both the Italian public and private business sectors could play a major role in this sector, especially in the fields of energy and communications. Thus Lenoci's visit is seen as spearhead mission to pave the way for Italian participation in the "big business" of Lebanon's reconstruction.

Al-Hasan Will Not Attend Washington Talks

NC3011113591 Paris AFP in English 1113 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Beirut, Nov 30 (AFP)—The head of Lebanon's delegation to peace talks with Israel said here Saturday he wanted to stand down and would not travel to Washington for next week's negotiations.

"I will not go to Washington, and the Foreign Ministry has been informed of my reasons," Zafir al-Hasan told AFP.

On Friday, the government said the 55-year-old career diplomat would remain the head of Lebanon's peace team for the bilateral talks with Israel that began in Madrid on November 3.

But al-Hasan, a Sunni Muslim, had already said on November 19 that he would not take part in future negotiations because of a "heavy workload."

Informed sources said he feared possible threats from groups opposed to the U.S.-inspired Middle East peace process, notably pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim fundamentalists.

Another member of the delegation, 'Abbas Hamiyah, a Shiite Muslim, has also informed the Foreign Ministry that he refused to go to Washington, according to diplomatic sources.

There was no immediate announcement in Beirut on the make-up of a new negotiating team.

Buwayz Names Delegation to Washington Talks

NC0112142291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] At a news conference at the Foreign Ministry a short while ago, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz announced that Foreign Ministry Secretary General Suhayl Shammas will head the Lebanese delegation to the Washington negotiations. The delegation will comprise Ambassadors Muhammad Hammud, Ja'far Mu'awiyah, Jihad Murtada, Samir Mubarak, and Naji Abu-'Asi, as well as Lieutenant Colonel Mahir al-Tufayli, Major Shafiq Mahran, and Ghassan Salamah.

Minister Buwayz said that he might also go to Washington to attend the first sessions that will be held. He added that other names might be be added to the delegation or some of the members be recalled.

Comments on Delegation, Jazzin Issue

NC0112183991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Buwayz did not exclude the possibility of making an amendment to the delegation's composition as circumstances require, because this will go through political, legal, security, military, and technical phases. He also did not rule out the possibility of his accompanying the Lebanese delegation if need be.

Buwayz noted that Lebanon's participation in the talks hinges on two bases—Arab solidarity and implementation of Resolution 425 on the one hand and Israel's immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon and the implementation of Resolution 425 on the other. He said that the documents on which the talks will be based will be the armistice treaty and Resolution 425—nothing else.

Commenting on a U.S. proposal for a (?trial) withdrawal from Jazzin, Buwayz denied that he supports this proposal. He said: This is a false accusation. We will not accept talks with the Israelis except on the basis of Resolution 425 and Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories. When we were asked to discuss the Jazzin issue, we said we refuse to discuss it with the Israelis, because Jazzin is only part of the issue, not all of it, and we do not limit our demands to Jazzin. We asked the U.S. side to tackle this issue directly with the Israeli side.

As for Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan declining [to lead the Lebanese delegation], Buwayz said Ambassador al-Hasan has personal reasons for apologizing and not leading the delegation. He added: We will look into the personal circumstances which rendered him unable to participate in the delegation. Buwayz said Ambassador al-Hasan has never told him about receiving a direct or indirect threat from any source.

As for Ambassador 'Abbas Hamiyyah, Buwayz said: Hamiyyah is a retired ambassador and is not currently a member of the diplomatic corps. We asked him to accompany us to Madrid because he is a former ambassador to Spain and knows that country. There is no reason for him to conduct the same task in Washington.

Meets With Delegation

NC0212113791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The Lebanese delegation to negotiations has met Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. Present were delegation members Ambassadors Ja'far Mu'awiyah, Jihad Murtada, Mahmud Hammud, Samir Mubarak, and Naji Abu-'Asi. The delegation also includes Lieutenant Colonel Mahir al-Tufayli, Major Shafiq Mahran, and Counsellor Dr. Ghassan Salamah.

The head of the delegation, Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry secretary general, said after the meeting with Minister Buwayz that the delegation received specific instructions. They exchanged viewpoints and clarified the Lebanese stand on all issues. Shammas said that we hope we are successful in our mission to Washington. Responding to a question regarding the Lebanese stand, Shammas said:

[Begin recording] [Shammas] We are going there to discuss and demand the implementation of all articles of Resolution 425. Resolution 425 is the basis of the whole mission. We will be discussing the implementation procedures of the contents of this resolution. No discussion will take place regarding the contents, because they are not negotiable.

[Correspondent] Therefore, discussions also will deal with military and procedural issues?

[Shammas] This is expected. We are going there with an open mind. We are armed with a national stand. The delegation has united concepts, policies, and preparedness. We have gained the confidence of the decisionmakers. We also hope to gain the confidence of all the Lebanese. We are Lebanese first and foremost. We believe the south is the key to the solution. The south is for us all, whether we are from al-Shamal, al-Biqa', Jabal Lubnan, Beirut, or any other governorate. Each one of us going to the conference represents all the Lebanese irrespective of their sects.

[Correspondent] Mr. Ambassador, if Israel continues its policy of attempting to postpone the date for negotiations, what will your stand be?

[Shammas] We are going to Washington upon a written invitation from the U.S. Government delivered by U.S. Secretary of State Baker to the foreign minister. We answered this message in writing and handed it over to the U.S. ambassador. [end recording]

Implementation of Resolution 425 To Be Demanded

NC0212071191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The Lebanese delegation to the Washington talks will leave today carrying instructions to demand the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 and to maintain Arab solidarity. The delegation will insist that an Israeli withdrawal from Jazzin is not a subject for negotiations because Israel must implement this step before withdrawing from the south and western al-Biqa'.

Delegation head Ambassador Suhayil Shammas emphasized the need for the full implementation of Resolution 425, especially regarding an Israeli withdrawal. The conference must provide us with the opportunity to earnestly seek to achieve an Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territory.

In a statement published in the AL-NAHAR newspaper today, Ambassador Shammas said that the channels of communications will remain open between the delegation and the foreign minister and cabinet to update officials in Beirut on the course of the negotiations. He added: We will be struggling against a mind-set. Our cause is just. Therefore, we must prepare ourselves mentally and politically to comprehend the issues under discussion. We will be armed with our intellect and our confidence in the justness of our cause. If we provide ourselves with these prerequisites, in addition to the government's instructions and the high qualifications of the delegation members, I believe that we will achieve our goals.

Shammas said: We will demand the implementation of every provision of Resolution 425. Our minds and eyes are open to discuss every new issue. Our instructions are clear. If a new issue is submitted to us or a new situation crops us, the channels of communication are secured with the foreign minister and the Lebanese Government.

Asked whether the Lebanese and Syrian delegations will hold a meeting before the start of the conference, Shammas said: There is coordination between Lebanon and Syria on all levels. Everything depends on circumstances.

Twenty-Five Prisoners Released From al-Khiyam

TA0112102091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] This morning 25 prisoners were released from al-Khiyam prison at the UN secretary general's request, as a personal gesture prior to the expiry of his term and in a bid to help him complete the release of the Israeli POW's and MIA's, the South Lebanese Army's MIA's, and the Western hostages.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the Israeli negotiating team dealing with the POW's and MIA's held consultations with the UN secretary general and his aide, Giandomenico Picco, in the last few days.

Freed Lebanese Claim Abuse

NC0112191591 Paris AFP in English 1857 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Beirut, Dec 1 (AFP)—Lebanese prisoners released Sunday by an Israeli-controlled militia in south Lebanon said on arrival in Beirut that they had been tortured and mistreated.

Looking weary and barely able to walk, they were given a triumphant welcome at the headquarters of the pro-Iranian Moslem fundamentalist group Hizballah in the southern suburbs of the capital.

To cries of "Allah Akbar" (God is great), young Hizballah members carried the returning prisoners aloft through a crowd of hundreds while their families wept with joy.

The South Lebanon Army freed 25 prisoners from al-Khiyam, a prison in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in the south. The move was part of a deal for the release of Western hostages held by Moslem extremists in Lebanon.

Two of the freed prisoners were women. Together with two men, they were allowed to stay in the "security zone" but the other 21 were expelled.

Six of those released are members of Hizballah and some belong to the Lebanese Communist Party but most said they were not members of any organisation.

"I was subjected to electric shocks; I was trampled on and beaten until I fainted during interrogation sessions," said 17-year-old Husayn, who spent two years in al-Khiyam on charges of belonging to the anti-Israeli resistance.

Another young man was too nervous to give details of his ordeal. "I can't say anything. My family is still in the security zone, and I was warned they would all be taken to al-Khiyam if I said anything," he told journalists.

Ahmad, another former prisoner, said they had received no medical care and [were] allowed only 10 minutes every second day to exercise in the courtyard. "If we tried to talk from one cell to another, the guards would beat us," he said.

Amnesty International has condemned the conditions at al-Khiyam, citing several cases of torture, and the International Committee of the Red Cross has not been granted access to the prison.

Around 350 prisoners are left in al-Khiyam, where Israeli intelligence officers lead the interrogations.

Hizballah Says Release Not Goodwill Gesture

NC0112132291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Hizballah has indicated that the release of the detainees from al-Khiyam prison is not a goodwill gesture by Israel. Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah said that serious efforts are being made to free all the detainees held in the occupation forces' prisons. He criticized the government for showing no interest in the issue of the detainees, even after their release.

Hizballah: Struggle Continues Until 'Ubayd Freed

LD0212112691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The Lebanese revolutionary Hizballah movement has announced that the release of 25 of the Muslims held captive in al-Khiyam prison is the result of their steadfastness and the devotion and dedication of the revolutionaries committed to Islamic resistance.

The Central News Unit reports from Beirut that Shaykh Nasim Qasim, one of the leaders of the Lebanese Hizballah and a member of its council, held a meeting with the freed prisoners at the Great Prophet mosque in the southern quarter of Beirut last night. He emphasized that the Lebanese Hizballah will continue its struggle until Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and the remaining prisoners held captive by the Zionist regime are released. He said: The United Nations and the arrogant governments which constantly talk about human rights do not pay the slightest attention to the condition and situation of the Muslim prisoners inside al-Khiyam detention center, or to human rights in southern Lebanon.

Israel Reportedly Agrees To Release 200 Detainees

NC0212072791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] A fundamentalist Islamic source told the REUTER correspondent in Beirut that an agreement has been reached whereby Israel will release 200 Lebanese detainees. In return, it will receive the corpses of two lost Israeli soldiers and information about another Israeli soldier currently being held prisoner.

UNIFIL Rejects Adjacent Lebanese Deployments

NC2911123191 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] A tug of war is continuing in Tayr Dibbah between the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] and the Amal Movement, which is using local residents in the confrontation. Amal is escalating its campaign to keep the Lebanese Army there by inciting popular demonstrations and sit-ins. Reports about these demonstrations, however, might be exaggerated. Our correspondent in the south reports that the township was completely quiet this morning and there were no demonstrations or sit-ins.

UNIFIL is daily stressing that it rejects any Lebanese military deployment alongside its forces. Timor Goksel, official UNIFIL spokesman, told our correspondent that UNIFIL implements only the instructions issued by the UN Security Council. He said UNIFIL does not object to any deployment by the Lebanese Army on its territories but pointed out that it is impossible for any peacekeeping force to deploy alongside another force in the same area because such a situation would be dangerous and also because UN and UN Security Council resolutions do not make provisions for such double deployment.

A UNIFIL source emphasized that the UN Security Council does not have the least intention to withdraw any UNIFIL troops from the south and, consequently, there are other possible areas to which UNIFIL might be relocated in the event a decision is reached to deploy the Lebanese Army in its place. The source added that six new positions have been established for the Nepalese contingent in the south. He said this operation was carried out without any media uproar.

Israel Resumes Shelling Southern Villages

NC0212110691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The occupation forces have renewed their shelling of the villages in the south. Israeli artillery shelled the village of Zawtar al-Gharbiyah with over 20 shells.

The Lahd militias carried out a campaign of combing the eastern sector by using heavy-caliber machine guns in the direction of Wadi Mimis and (Burkat Jabbur).

Libya's Durdah Praises Arab Stand on 'Threats'

NC2811093291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee in Libya, has stated that the Arab reactions to the U.S. threats against Libya are extremely positive. He added that the stand of the Arab brothers rejecting anything that might be directed against the Jamahiriyah is supportive.

The remarks of the Libyan official were made after his meeting with Michel Ma'luli, deputy speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, this morning.

Iraqi Charge Calls Junblatt 'One of Our Friends'

NC2911143491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party Leader Walid Junblatt met with the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Lebanon in al-Mukhtarah today.

The charge d'affaires said after the meeting: This visit is one of my routine visits to nationalist and political leaders in Lebanon. As you know, in Iraq, we regard al-Mukhtarah and Junblatt as one of our friends and loved ones, whom we respect and is highly regarded in Iraq. Any Iraqi ambassador in Lebanon comes to al-Mukhtarah and Junblatt's home.

He added: Within this context, we discussed with Minister Junblatt the Arab nation's concerns and problems and the political situation in general. We wish national unity for Lebanon and pride for its people. We also discussed the economic embargo on Iraq and our suffering from it. We hope, God willing, that our goals will materialize and see the Arab nation well.

Replying to a question on developments in southern Lebanon, he said: Iraq's position on this issue is clear. We hope the Arabs will stand against Israel, which exploits Arab disunity and weakness. Israel's plan is to stay in the south and occupy that strip on the timid pretext that it wants to preserve its security and borders. He added: Iraq was among the first Arab countries to deplore and condemn the occupation of the south and it accepts no excuse from Israel, nor from any other country claiming to be a superpower attempting to cover the Israeli plan for Lebanon. Therefore, we demand the implementation of Resolution 425, which is quite clear, and demand Israel's withdrawal. UN Security Council resolutions must be applied to Israel in southern Lebanon as they were applied to Iraq in the past.

Afghanistan

Hard-Line Mojahedin Agree on Political Solution

LD0112113391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] The leaders of three Afghan mojahedin groups based in Pakistan have reached basic agreement on a new proposal for a political solution to the Afghan problem. An IRNA report from Peshawar citing mojahedin sources states that Burhanuddin Rabbani, the leader of Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society]; Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi, the leader of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami [Movement of the Islamic Revolution]; and Golboddin Hekmatyar, the leader of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Afghanistan—who agreed on the new proposal for a political solution to the Afghan problem during their joint session in Peshawar yesterday—are to put the proposal to other Afghan groups.

The details of the proposal, which have not been revealed yet, will be announced after acceptance by other mojahedin parties.

Sources close to Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan said that if this proposal is finally accepted, the officials of that party will also participate in the talks between Afghan mojahedin and Soviet officials. Hekmatyar's party had hitherto emphasized a military solution to the Afghan problem.

Iran Plans Talks With Rebels, Pakistan

BK0112082691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0744 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Kabul, Dec 1 (AFP)—Iran is planning to host another conference with Afghan rebels and Pakistan in a bid to bring the resistance closer before a January 1 arms cut deadline by the superpowers, diplomats said Sunday.

The tripartite talks will be held before the weapons supplies are stopped by Washington and Moscow to all sides in the Afghan conflict, the diplomats here said, adding that the conference aimed to help the mojahedin come closer.

"The conference dates have not yet been fixed, but it will be held very soon," an Iranian diplomat said. He said he could not say if all mojahedin leaders would participate.

Nine relatively moderate rebel groups are based in Iran, home to more than two million Afghan war refugees, and a seven-party rebel alliance is operating out of Pakistan, where three million refugees have taken shelter since war flared in Afghanistan 13 years ago.

The Soviet-backed government of President Najibollah will not be participating in the tripartite conference, the second to be held in Tehran since September 1991, the diplomats said.

"The conference will aim to bring the mojahedin leaders closer so that a consensus leadership emerges before the peace process in Afghanistan gets under way," said an Asian diplomat, adding that Tehran was likely to urge Islamabad to end its military backing of the resistance.

"As an Islamic nation we support any process which will end the Afghan conflict and end the misery of our Muslim brothers, and we hope the conference is another step towards ending the war," an Iranian diplomat said.

The faction-ridden Afghan rebels are locked in various military conflicts within Afghanistan, threatening a U.N. formula to end the war with a ceasefire, intra-Afghan dialogue ahead of an interim government and finally a U.N.-supervised elections within two years.

The Soviet Union, which withdrew its troops from Afghanistan in 1989, held direct talks last month with various mojahedin leaders and agreed to abide by an eight-point agreement which endorses the U.N. peace plan.

"We only hope that all the groups participate" in Tehran, said the diplomat, referring to the boycott of the September conference by two fundamentalist rebel leaders.

The previous Tehran meet had paved way for the November 11-15 Moscow discussions.

Three Pakistan-based hardline mojahedin leaders did not take part in the meeting, calling it a sellout.

USSR To Step Up Diplomatic Cutbacks

BK0112123191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1223 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Kabul, Dec 1 (AFP)—The Soviet Union has decided to reduce the number of diplomats and other personnel in its missions in Afghanistan ahead of its January 1 stoppage of arms supplies to the Kabul regime, Western diplomats said here Sunday.

The diplomats said the pruning of the mission staff is the second since the summer when Moscow withdrew a large number of officials because of financial constraints.

They said the some 60 listed diplomats and twice that number of non-diplomatic personnel would be "drastically reduced" from the main mission in Kabul.

Moscow is also likely to pull out some of the 10 diplomats, their families and other officials from the Soviet Consulate General in Mazar-e Sharif, an important trade center in northern Afghanistan, they said.

The reductions will be completed before the January 1 deadline fixed by Moscow and Washington to halt arms supplies to all sides of the Afghan conflict, the diplomats added.

Soviet diplomats were unavailable for comment Sunday, and details of the exact number of people to be recalled were not available.

But the sources said the Soviets had already recalled most of its advisors including missile experts and that not more than 20 of the original 300 advisors were left in country.

The speeded-up withdrawal of the advisors followed the November 11-15 talks in Moscow with the mojahedin resistance, after which it also pledged to halt all fuel supplies which could be used by Kabul for combat purposes.

"It was not that Moscow is ditching its Afghan friends before the arms cut, but it is slashing the staff because the role of the two missions will be greatly diminished after the January 1 deadline," said a senior Western diplomat.

Moscow withdrew 115,000 combat and support troops from Afghanistan in 1989 under a U.N. brokered accord and now supports a United Nations formula to end the 13-year-long war.

The formula calls for a ceasefire and an intra-Afghan dialogue before the formation of a transitional government prior to supervised elections to be held before January 1993.

Najibollah Message on Constitutional Anniversary

LD0112070191 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0422 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Kabul, Nov 30, BAKHTAR—President Najibollah while congratulating the fourth anniversary of the country's Constitution to all Afghans stated that respect to the sacred religion of Islam, political pluralism, safeguarding of independence, national sovereignty territorial integrity, Afghani accepted traditions, respect to the UNO [United Nations Organization] Charter as well as the world declaration on human rights are amongst the highest values enshrined in the Constitution.

Says the message of the President Najibollah last night by radio-TV on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the country's Constitution coincides with Nov 30, 1991.

This highest national document (Constitution) which we call it as the Constitution of National Reconciliation, endorsed by the Loya Jergah "Grand Assembly" in 1988, paves the ground for the implementation of the national reconciliation policy. This document for the first time formed a new legal and political regime in Afghanistan.

With the endorsement of the Constitution based on parliamentarism day division of three state forces, the National Assembly (parliament) as the highest legislative organ, was elected by people through equal, free, secret and direct voting, the message adds.

The Council of the Constitution of the country as a new democratic foundation of democrcy in the consolidation and stability of legality, was formed for the first time in the Afghan history, in order to put an end to the on-going devastating war. In a condition that international community more than any other time, is trying for the solution of disputes, the UNO secretary general in his five-point plan of Afghanistan has demanded the solution of the Afghan problem through political means without foreign interventions. The Government of Afghanistan is firmly believing in that the political solution of the Afghan issue depends on stopping foreign interferences, safeguarding of national sovereignty territorial integrity and independence of Afghanistan, the message stresses.

The Afghan Government considers the USSR-USA joint statement as a concrete step taken for the cessation of war in Afghanistan. This opportunity demands all Afghans to try their utmost for the cessation of war and hostilities, ensurance of peace in Afghanistan, and spare no efforts in the implementation of the UNO secretary general's statement.

The unity of Afghans and restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan requires sincere cooperation and efforts, the message remarks.

As far as it concerns the Afghan Government, I assure you that, we will honestly strive for the implementation of the UNO secretary general's five-point plan and the USSR-USA joint statement. Besides, we continue our policy of national reconciliation coincides with the principles of the sacred religion of Islam and the highest interest of the Afghan people.

It should be recalled here that the ensurance of a legal and legislative order will be effective, when laws be endorsed in full conformity with the principles of the sacred religion of Islam, will and requirements of people, demand of the time, and people's traditions.

The law enforcement organs have grave responsibilities in the fields of drafting, endorsement and protection of laws. They should try hard for the removal of existing problems in this field, the message concludes.

Nation World's Biggest Producer of Opium Resin

BK2911120491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1044 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 29 (AFP)—Afghanistan became the world's top producer of opium resin in 1990, with production estimated at more than 2,000 tonnes, says a United Nations report published here this week.

Precise figures on opium production there, however, are impossible to obtain because of the continuing civil war and a lack of control by the Kabul government over much of the country.

Still, the UN production estimate is far superior to that of 415 tonnes made by the United States Government in March. The U.S. report named Burma as the world's top producer.

The UN report said a large part of the Afghan production is refined in clandestine laboratories along the Pakistan border before being transported to Western countries as heroin via Pakistan and Iran.

Also according to the report, 70 percent of all heroin seized in Europe comes from Afghanistan and Pakistan, and it said the number of heroin addicts is increasing in the two Asian countries.

An estimated 100,000 heroin addicts can be found just in the northeastern Afghanistan province of Badakhshan, which borders the Soviet Republic of Tajikistan, the report says.

Some addicts are as young as 11, says the report, adding that "at the present time, conditions in Afghanistan are not ripe" for crop substitution programs.

Bangladesh

Libyan Official Seeks Support on Lockerbie Issue

BK0212064091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0628 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 2 (AFP)—A special envoy of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrived here late Sunday on a three-day official visit ahead of the coming Islamic summit in Senegal, Radio Bangladesh said Monday.

'Abd-al-Raziq Sawsa', secretary-general of the General People's Congress, was carrying a message from al-Qadhdhafi for Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, it said without elaborating.

Earlier, sources close to the Foreign Office here said that the visit was aimed at getting Bangladesh's support against recent alleged threats by the United States and Britain over the Lockerbie Pan Am plane bombing in 1988.

Washington and London have indicted two Libyan intelligence agents for the bombing and asked Tripoli to extradite them.

Sawsa' would also hold talks with Bangladesh President Abdur Rahman Biswas, the source said.

A spokesman of the Libyan Embassy here said the purpose of the visit could not be disclosed, but then added that it was aimed at seeking Bangladesh's support on different issues faced by Libya.

Asked if one was the Pan Am bombing, he said, "Well, maybe it is one of them."

Zia is to head a 30-member strong team to the summit of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and leave for the Senegalese capital Dakar on December 7.

The three-day summit is scheduled to start on December 9.

Zia Criticizes 'Harsh' Loan Terms, Awami League

BK2711140891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0819 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 27 (AFP)—Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has criticised and called for a review of the allegedly harsh conditions that international donor agencies impose on developing nations for economic aid.

The assistance Bangladesh receives from Western world is "mostly tied and harsh," Bangladesh's first woman prime minister said during an interview here late Tuesday with AFP.

"It is difficult to accept and more so for a democratic representative government," said Zia, elected to power eight months ago in the country's first free elections.

"Tied aid should be reconsidered and terms made softer," said Zia, who charged that the conditions were "a little bit harsh" for people in developing nations such as Bangladesh, without elaborating.

But her remarks were almost certainly directed against new terms imposed in recent years by the Washington-based World Bank and International Monetary Fund, Bangladesh's major traditional donor agencies, for allocating fresh economic assistance for the power and communications industries, as well as other sectors.

Informed sources said the latest tension with the donor agencies was over an alleged delay in giving the green light to the 500 million dollar Jamuna River bridge project to connect Bangladesh's developed south and central region with the underdeveloped north.

Zia's criticism did not however extend to assistance from most Western countries, many of which have decided to write off accumulated interest or have converted loans into grants for the impoverished South Asian nation of 110 million people with a per capita income of 180 dollars a year.

She reserved special praise for the United States, Britain, France, and also Japan and China, which in addition to writing off most of their debts had "responded to our crisis" during calamities like floods and cyclones.

"Our bilateral relations are very good," said Zia, the 46-year-old widow of late President General Ziaur Rahman, assassinated in a failed 1981 military coup.

Turning to the domestic situation, Zia spoke out strongly against her main political rival, the Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed, and alleged that attempts had been made to destablise her Bangladesh Nationalist Party government ever since it was elected eight months ago.

She said her government would take tough measures to curb the ongoing social, labour and political unrest, which she called a deliberate attempt to prevent her elected government from functioning.

"We will not bow down to any pressure now that the government was convinced of their malafide intentions," she said, referring to opposition-backed labour strikes, campus violence and this week's road and railway blockade.

Zia did not specify what measures her government was contemplating.

Her Information Minister Nazmul Huda said earlier that the government would strictly enforce criminal law against anyone trying to disrupt normal life by illegal means, after accusing the Awami League of trying to create a "disorderly situation."

"We have to get tough ... no government can allow a limited number of people to uproot railway tracks in the name of an industrial blockade," said Huda, a barrister and human rights activist, adding that the offenders would be dealt with according to the law.

Zia and Huda's comments come as thousands of opposition-backed jute and textile workers are staging a 48-hour nationwide road and railway blockade, which is seriously disrupting communications.

"We are not against the workers," said Zia, stressing that the government accepted their "reasonable demands" and was ready to discuss their problems with them, but could not allow disruptive activities like blockades.

India

Bomb Found on Air India Airliner

BK0112124091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1231 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 1 (AFP)—A remote-controlled bomb was found in an Air India Boeing 747 bound for London and New York with a full load of 398 passengers and 18 crew shortly before its take off from New Delhi Sunday, police said.

A steward discovered the crude bomb inside a food container about 30 minutes before flight AI-111 was due for takeoff at 8:05 a.m. (0235 GMT) from the Indira Gandhi International Airport here, police said.

The passengers were immediately asked to disembark and the plane was taken to a remote bay, while the bomb disposal squad of the New Delhi Police came and defused the device, airport officials said.

Additional Commissioner of Police A.K. Singh said the bomb, meant to be activated by radio signal, was made up of two sticks of explosive material, two small cans, one of gas and of petrol, a battery and some wires.

Police had earlier described it as a time bomb, but Singh told AFP after examining the device that it was meant to be activated by radio and was not very powerful.

"I don't think it could have caused great damage," he said.

He added that police investigations were under way, and it could not be said immediately who could have been responsible.

"Obviously it is someone who had access to the food trays," he said. "Perhaps somebody in the catering staff. That's all I can say now."

The aircraft had landed at about 7:00 a.m. (0130 GMT) from the southern city of Madras, and picked up passengers in New Delhi.

The bomb was found 30 minutes before a special Air India plane carrying Premier P.V. Narasimha Rao arrived at a secluded Air Force base adjoining the international airport, but police could not say if the two were connected.

Rao, who attended the G-15 summit in Caracas, returned home via Paris.

Air India spokesman S.P. Dutt said the catering trays had been provided by Chef Air, a subsidiary of the airlines. He said the food trays underwent "strict security everywhere. Not only that, there are also hygiene checks."

Asked who could have planted the bomb, Dutt replied: "Those investigations are being carried out."

But Singh said security checks of the food trays were poor.

"There is a man standing there when the food is cooked and it is his duty to see that the trays are all sealed," he said. "The police only see if the trays are sealed or not and if they are being taken in by authorised people or not."

In this case, police said, an Air India steward became suspicious because he found the seal of one of the trays open. On June 23, 1985, a bomb explosion destroyed an Air India Boeing in mid-flight off the Irish coast, killing all 329 people aboard. The plane was on a scheduled flight from Toronto to Bombay.

Sikh militants were suspected of causing that explosion.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA later quoted police sources as describing the device as a ball-shaped petrol bomb with no shrapnel, and added that if detonated it would have caused a major fire in the aircraft.

Catering Official Arrested

BK0212093091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The Delhi Police today arrested Mr. Balwinder Singh Nigah, the duty officer of the flight catering unit of Air India, in connection with bomb planting incident in

the aircraft in New Delhi yesterday. The Air India flight was bound for London and New York.

Mr. Nigah is alleged to have planted the explosive device in a food container which was later detected by an alert steward just minutes before takeoff of the flight. Police said they have also found some incriminating materials from Nigah in this regard.

A militant group of Jammu and Kashmir, Muslim Janbaz Force, earlier claimed responsibility for planting the bomb that was found in the Air India jumbo jet bound for New York.

Government Rejects Canadian Rights Criticisms

BK2911162291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] India has strongly rebutted the Canadian envoy's criticism of women's status in India, particularly in regard to the incidents of dowry deaths, and human rights in Punjab at the UN General Assembly Social Committee. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen today the Canadian high commissioner was told about New Delhi's distress and disapproval at the lack of understanding of the situation in India. The spokesman said the one-sided view was unwarranted.

Minister Notes Dialogue With Punjab Militants

BK0112130491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has said that the government is holding a dialogue with the militants to find a peaceful solution to the Punjab problem. Mr. Chavan described the talks as preliminary. He expressed the hope that all militant organizations will accept a solution within the framework of the Indian Constitution. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, Mr. Chavan said the main problem to be tackled is that of youth being misled and lured into militancy. He however declined to identify the militant groups involved or give any details about the talks.

Referring to the Army deployment in Punjab, the home minister said the objective is to build up the confidence of the people in preparation for the elections to be completed by mid-February next year.

Earlier addressing the BSF [Border Security Force] Day parade, the home minister appreciated Britain and the United States for cautioning Pakistan not to aid and encourage terrorism in the subcontinent. Mr. Chavan hoped Pakistan will stop its cross-border activities and work for a peaceful bilateral solution to the existing problems.

Mr. Chavan lauded the BSF for patrolling the difficult borders and checking the infiltration of militants. The home minister also presented the president's and police medals for gallantry and meritorious service to the BSF awardees.

Editorial Urges Early Transfer of Tin Bigha

BK2711150391 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 16 Nov 91 p 13

[Editorial: "Beyond Tin Bigha"]

[Text] The laboured agitation over the transfer of the Tin Bigha strip of land to Bangladesh is a measure of political gimmickry which some parties can indulge in to get a few votes even at the cost of compromising national honour. The Government of India will be well advised to ignore these so-called popular protests and go ahead with something it ought to have done at least a decade and a half ago. The transfer of Tin Bigha in exchange of the Berubari enclave was agreed upon between India and Bangladesh during Sheikh Mujib's time. While Bangladesh met its part of the commitment, Tin Bigha was not transferred as it got embroiled in litigation. After the recent Supreme Court verdict there could be no earthly reason for any responsible political party to organise agitations which have no purpose but to embarrass the Government of India.

One particular reason why New Delhi should lose no time to hand over Tin Bigha to Bangladesh is the need to convince Dhaka that it would not hereafter have a genuine grievance against India. Two things will happen as a result. First, if the transfer is effected around December 16, the day Bangladesh observes as Victory Day because of the Pakistan Army's surrender on that date 20 years ago heralding its birth, India's gesture will be appreciated by many Bangladeshis. Secondly, Dhaka will find it difficult to hold back its hand of cooperation, whether on the question of distribution of water resources, the controversial New Moore island or on the proposal to allow India transit facilities through Bangladesh territory to the North-East. Dhaka has not been in a particularly friendly mood since the new government took office earlier this year. It has lost no opportunity to needle India despite protestations of friendship. Its decision to send the Prime Minister to Colombo even when the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit had been postponed was but one evidence of its policy. To make sure that Mrs Khaleda Zia did not travel to Sri Lanka merely because her late husband had been the originator of the SAARC concept, Bangladesh joined Pakistan to co-sponsor a resolution on nuclear-free South Asia with no other purpose but to irritate India. Unfortunately, New Delhi's effort to be correct with Dhaka is being hampered by not only a West Bengal party like the Forward Bloc, but the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] which is wanting to assume federal power and pursue a responsible foreign policy. The BJP's demand for a White paper on Tin Bigha is entirely misconceived, and it should sacrifice small political gains to support the move to transfer Tin Bigha to Bangladesh soon.

J.N. Dixit Takes Over as Foreign Secretary

BK0112130691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Mr. J.N. Dixit today formally took over as the foreign secretary. He succeeds Mr. Muchkund Dubey, who retired after a 34-year service.

Mr. Dixit served as the Indian high commissioner to Sri Lanka and Pakistan. He also served as a minister in the Indian Embassy in Washington. Mr. Dixit had also been on the Indian delegation to the UN General Assembly, Security Council, the Nonaligned [Movement], the Commonwealth, and the International Labor Organization.

Iran

Rafsanjani Sermon on 'Chance' in History

LD2911144391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 29 Nov 91

[First Friday sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 29 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [passage omitted] With regard to the modern period, there is a book—I do not want to name the author or the publisher. This is an official platform and I am speaking as the president, this may cause problems in that country. [not further identified] One of the very famous authors of the Arab world, you all know him very well and have certainly heard of him, has written a book entitled "The Media and Politics." In one of the sections of the book he raises this issue with the important documents that he has possesses: After World War II, the Americans became very powerful and the undisputed force. They proceeded to dominate the world's media. One of the most important duties of the CIA was to set up news and publication agencies across the globe to feed the people those thoughts that they [the Americans] wanted to. They set up an important press organization in every corner. Our Iran is named [in the book], a certain publication is named. Egypt, Germany, Japan—there are examples from all countries. In one of the Arab countries, he says: One of the newspapers that was published with help from CIA had two main objectives. The newspaper published news, provided analysis and many other things. However, the reasons that it received so much American financial assistance were these two: One, to make the people believe that events occur through chance. By chance, fate, astrology, the stars and the like. These things have been in our literature from past days. Two: To say that justice is given, not taken. Social justice becomes a reality through kind, generous, good, kind, and merciful people; not through the will of the masses, through struggle and pressure from below.

Today I want to discuss his chance issue. Do you really think this is a coincidence? The bullies of the days of Imam Baqir and Imam Sadiq said the same things that America says today. What was pestilence in those days is pestilence today. As I have said, the issue is not personal, I am not concerned with personal ethics right now. I am concerned for the Islamic society. I am worried about the Islamic ummah [community]. I am concerned about the 1.2 billion Muslims who are humbled today with such thoughts. The Westerners call it chance, we call it resourcefulness. [passage omitted]

We are wrong if we imagine that problems will be solved through prayers, worship, and devotion. Prayers have their own place, our ulema [theologians] have clarified the issue. [passage omitted] This mentality is wrong, we must get this thought out of their minds. This is a great, deep task. [passage omitted]

There is one Israel with two or three million [people]; it has its basic infrastructure in order. It has hold of the weapons it needs, it has provided for its defense, it has constructed its houses properly, and its industry is good. It confronts all these people who imagine that they can win on the battlefield through hidden divine help. God has never said that if we deviate, his assistance will arrive. [passage omitted]

Second Friday Prayer Sermon

LD2911181391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1210 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Second Friday prayer sermon by Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 29 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In the second sermon we will discuss two or three topical issues. One is an international, regional, and Islamic issue and the other two or three are Islamic.

The first issue is the ending of Basij Week, about which I must say a few words. Basij was an extremely valuable initiative. [passage omitted]

Basij was to a great extent voluntary. General mobilization in other states is by nature compulsory and relies on the law. According to the appropriate law, everyone must participate. Here it was a voluntary act. The need for compulsion did not arise. There were enough self-sacrificing human beings who voluntarily set off for the battlefields. It lasted too long, as well. It carried on for seven, eight years. To be fair, a great deal of pressure was sustained by this sector of the people. If there were, for instance, around 50 million people in our country, some two or three million repeatedly went to the fronts and offered themselves. This had its weak point also. Some did not set foot at the front at all and even exploited the war; they stayed behind and sucked the people's blood, and because of the special war conditions they lined their pockets. Some were indifferent. But some of the people, of the young, from all strata—from the clerics, students, pupils, laborers, traders, employees, the educated, and

the non-educated—were present. It was not limited to a particular stratum. These people really had a very tough time. They gave a great deal. They are those who still have pieces of shrapnel in their bodies. They are the ones who returned to the front before their wounds had healed. [passage omitted]

What has accrued to us is that now we have young people everywhere who have gone through the toughest times, have come through with flying colors, and are in the service of the revolution and Islam. They are the material source for the propagation of Islam's culture and righteousness; they are the symbols of self-sacrifice, forgiveness, and jihad in our community. They are a great and beloved asset. We must endeavor not to let the passage of time wear them out and let them be forgotten in the miscellany of problems in our history. [passage omitted]

The next issue is our Navy Day. This again is one of our historical honors. The Navy, as well as the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, did very well, to be fair. The infantry and the Air Force all did very well, but because now it is Navy Day we will talk to you about them.

One of the fine effects of their jihad during the war as a whole was that we had the Persian Gulf relatively secure. Until the end of the war we were sending oil through Khark Island. For eight years the enemy bombarded it. It was near the border. At some points missiles were launched against it and they were reaching their targets. A place like Kharg, in the middle of the sea, near the enemy border, and the enemy with its extremely modern planes and super-modern laser bombs; if we managed to send oil from Kharg across the sea, utilize the Imam port, or bring the convoys with our requirements right up to Bushehr and Imam ports, and then bring them in by train or carry goods from there, this was mainly because of the Navy, although the Air Force was also busy with the same issue and was guarding the air, and the defenses there were active also. But to be fair the Navy did a great job. [passage omitted]

The form of our Navy is an appropriate one. It can do important things in the defense dimension, as in those days when the Americans with their fleet, and the fleet of many arrogant states, were present then, and it showed that we fought up to the last minute, even with speedboats, with the big American warships. Our boys did not have the slightest fear of facing all the resources that the Americans had brought to the Persian Gulf.

You do remember that in order to frighten us they resorted to downing our civilian plane in such a way as to show what they could do and to show that if necessary they would do this or that. This was certainly not an accident. It was a calculated act because they realized that they were helpless to confront forces seeking martyrdom and sailing in boats that could not be targeted by modern equipment. Thus they resorted to inhuman acts which did not follow military logic and classic warfare. [passage omitted]

The Islamic, international, and regional issue now is the Palestine issue and the peace talks—so-called peace—which once again they are talking about. I will make a few remarks, and the rest I will say in the Arabic sermon for our Arab brethren and sisters, which I have written down. Since the sermon has many listeners in Arab countries, I have discussed this in the Arabic sermon. I tell you briefly, however, that what has happened so far in this regard is nothing but a loss. Arab states that so far were not prepared to talk to Israel have agreed to talk and have done so. This is a kind of acknowledgement of Israel's legitimacy. It is a great loss and the breaking of a valuable sanction which has been in force for 50 years. This is an extremely important loss that unfortunately has been inflicted on Arabs, Islam, and the Palestinian people.

In this regard, Israel has come several steps nearer to its objective and the Arabs have receded several steps from theirs. Israel so far has offered nothing and has not even been prepared to utter the words: We are prepared to talk to you on exchanging land for peace. Even this it has not been prepared to say. It has openly not backed down in the slightest; it has even become more aggressive. It impudently attacks southern Lebanon day and night and advances, something it has not done in the past few years. It impudently invites all the Jews in the world to come to Israel, where there is no room for those living there—and this demonstrates the expansionist objective—and even says: I will not come to Washington for talks; you must come to Israel. When it says Middle East, it means Israel. It says Israel and Syria; Jordan, Syria. It means the Israeli Foreign Ministry officials should go to Damascus or Jordan for talks, or the officials of Jordan and Syria should go to Tel Aviv or even Jerusalem. It says: I will not come to Washington. This in itself is a strange point, since the Arabs have become so humble that they themselves say they will go to Washington. Washington is a completely anti-Islamic, anti-Arab environment. The press and media there are mostly Zionist. They are Zionist to such an extent that they pressure the American rulers themselves. How is it that the Arabs want to talk in such an environment and Israel says I will not come? This also is one of the wonders of the world, because it is pursuing something more important. Or maybe it is important for it to just play slightly coy; to stand back one step in the talks so that the Arabs make some concession for it to go there. In any case, this is a very bad state of affairs, an ugly state of affairs. We are really saddened these days. We are suffering greatly.

My former sermon—the conclusion I wanted to reach from that discussion is that had we Muslims trodden the right path they would not have been able to deal in such a way with the great Islamic ummah. Unfortunately this has come to pass; we hope that it becomes a lesson and that we can for the future.... [sentence incomplete as heard] The world will not end, and the Islamic ummah will remain. If we learn this lesson, we can compensate and, God willing, go along another path. [passage omitted]

Commentary Claims U.S. Bias Toward Israel

LD3011210191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Under the conditions when the next round of Arab-Israeli peace talks is set for Washington, on December 4, Tel Aviv has not yet revised its earlier decision, under which it had demanded a delay of five days in the start of those negotiations. However, the Israeli officials have not ruled out the dispatch of a low-level team for participation in the December 4 talks. Following the discontinuation of the Arab-Israeli parleys in Madrid and initial disagreements of the participating teams over the succession of a new venue for holding this second round of peace talks, eventually the United States, by setting December 4, named Washington as the venue for the new round of negotiations.

However, the Arabs and Israel have adopted different stands on this decision. Among the Arab states which participated in the initial round of the Middle East peace talks, Syria announced its decision to attend the second round of the talks with reluctance and delay. It was under these circumstances when the Syrian officials believed that Israeli withdrawal from the occupied land and the freezing of Jewish settlement construction in the Israeli occupied territories should be guaranteed so that the talks could follow their proper trend. But on the contrary, the Zionist regime's officials, as they also showed during the Middle East talks, are pursuing some other objective to [word indistinct].

The Zionist regime's prime minister has repeatedly announced that its country, by attending the talks, does not intend to transfer any land to the Arabs and to make any withdrawal from the occupied regions. Even though the White House, through acting as a mediator is seeking to take control of the peace process, it has constantly avoided to adopt a clear-cut stand on the disputed land, and endeavored by way of its ambiguous postures to encourage the wrong sides to hold negotiations.

Therefore, America, by playing such a role, has not succeeded in concealing its backing of Israel. The recent U.S. decision to grant to Israel $1.5 billion in a loan, whose major part will be spent in a military sphere, and also Washington's insistence on not accepting the formation of a Palestinian state in the occupied land, are some of these cases.

To end, the U.S.-brokered peace conference, in its current process, is based on the granting of minimum privileges by Israel to the Arabs against securing numerous privileges from them. In the first step of the peace carnival in Madrid, the Arabs, without obtaining any privilege from Israel, accorded recognition to the legitimacy of the Zionist regime. However, Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights, and a halt in the construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied lands, were not considered as a prerequisite to the peace talks, but the Arabs are now apprehensive that the issues have lost their significance to become second-rate matters in the talks. As such, the request for delaying the talks until December 9 and the naming of a low-level expertise by the Israelis to attend the talks goes to confirm the notion that the Zionists are only attempting to distance the peace parleys from the agenda desired by the Arabs.

Official Notes Payments Unrelated to Hostages

LD3011112391 Tehran IRNA in English 1026 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 30, IRNA—The U.S. is to pay Iran dlrs. 278 million as part of its due concerning military properties it had blockaded since 1981, said an official from the Bureau for International Legal Services (BILS) here Saturday morning. The BILS official stressed that the recent settlement "has nothing to do whatsoever with the release of the western hostages" kept in Lebanon. The settlement of this particular financial dispute between Iran and the U.S. came after the ruling by The Hague where the claims have been filed.

According to the ruling, Washington is to pay Tehran the sum for the military properties that it was to deliver to Iran in March 1981, but had refused to do so under the pretext that the move will violate its so-called neutrality in the Iraq-Iran war. The Hague found the U.S. decision as the act of confiscation of the Iranian assets and consequently ruled in favour of Iran compelling Washington to pay the sum equal to the value of the properties.

The litigating parties were asked by The Hague to offer their estimation of the value of the properties for investigation following which the price of the properties was set at dlrs. 278 million based on experts evaluation. The BILS official added that the sum covers the value of a portion of Iran's military properties in March 1981 and the due interest. According to the ruling, dlrs. 18 million of the sum is to be transferred to a security custody account within the provisions of the Algiers accord. The remainder is to be transferred to the Central Bank of Iran, he said.

Habibi on Upcoming OIC Summit

LD0212102991 Tehran IRNA in English 0816 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 2, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's participation in the forthcoming summit meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) indicates the significance Iran attaches to her relations with the Islamic countries, a senior official said here Monday.

Speaking in his weekly press conference First Vice-President Hasan Habibi added that the Islamic Republic

is interested in an active presence in the international arena and cooperation with the neighbouring, friendly and Muslim countries.

The OIC summit is to be held in Dakar, Senegal, December 8-12.

Turning to the next year's budget, Habibi said that the rls. [rials] 10,000,000 million-budget [as received] bill for the Iranian calendar year 1371 (March 21, 1991-March 20, 1992) will be presented to the Majlis next week.

Habibi further added that the government plans to reduce to zero its borrowing from the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) by the end of the current five-year development plan, 1994. However, he said, in the next year's budget, the government will borrow rls. 600,000 million from the CBI.

Iraqi Military Said Evicting Kurds From Towns

LD3011071391 Tehran IRNA in English 0549 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] London, Nov. 30, IRNA—According to a press release received by IRNA here Friday, Iraqi security forces have violently evicted thousands of Kurdish civilians from Klar, Kolajow [as received], Chamchamal, Irbil and other towns and villages. In Kifri, Iraqi military forces have removed over half of its population, forcibly detaining at least 15,000 people. Iraqi forces are apparently shelling the surrounding area, it added.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan expressed grave concern over the safety of the detainees, whose current whereabouts are unknown. Over 18,000 Kurds have "disappeared" since 1987.

The Kurdish population is also suffering fuel and petrol shortages—with people having to queue overnight to receive supplies.

Nepal & Bhutan

Prime Minister Assesses Indian, PRC Relations

BK2711022091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0136 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 27 (AFP)—Nepal is "sleeping between two giant elephants, India and China," and must therefore move cautiously in its foreign policy, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has said.

"We want to have good friendships with both India and China and we do not want to annoy any one of them," Koirala told AFP in an interview this week.

He said that he would pay a four-day official visit to India from December 5, and would go to China if formally invited.

"I have been informally invited to visit China," he said, "but if I am formally invited, I will definitely visit there."

Koirala, head of the Nepali Congress government elected in May this year, said he has sensed a change in India's attitude towards its neighbours, judging that New Delhi wants more friendly relations.

"In the same way, China has also changed her attitude and now wants to improve relations with her neighbours," Koirala added.

He said it was crucial for Nepal to avoid antagonising its two giant neighbours and to maintain good relations with both of them for reasons of economic development and the elimination of poverty in the Himalayan kingdom.

Questioned on the future of communism in Nepal, Koirala indicated that while communists made significant gains in the May elections, they would not destabilise the country.

"Communism could not be a threat to the democratic government (or) the monarchy," he said.

"I don't think communism is strong in South Asia and in Nepal in particular. It has no future prospects now."

Koirala added that "following the political changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, many of the pro-Soviet communists are showing interest in joining the Nepali Congress and numbers of them have already joined our party."

The success the communists have had, Koirala said, is due largely to their ability to exploit the hardships of rural dwellers.

"Because of the poverty of the larger number of the rural people, the communists in Nepal are... making all sorts of promises to the rural poor for the upliftment of their economy," he said.

"We, the Nepali Congress Party, representing democracy in the country, cannot make promises which we can not fulfil."

Asked to cite his government's main problem and challenge, Koirala continued in the same vein.

"The upliftment of the economy of the rural poor," he replied. "We have a great task to do for the improvement of the economy of the majority of the Nepalese rural poor."

On foreign relations, Koirala said his talks during his upcoming trip to India would be substantive.

"I will hold talks with the Indian leaders on a number of issues including trade and transit and cooperation for the development of water resources in Nepal, as we are going to face a power shortage in our country from 1993 onwards," he said.

On Bhutan, Koirala denied Bhutanese Government allegations that the Nepali Congress had instigated dissent among Bhutanese of Nepalese origin in order to achieve the aims of a so-called "Greater Nepal."

"We prefer to be a small country and remain as we are today in our geographical size, peacefully," Koirala said.

"We are, however, concerned with the present political situation (in Bhutan), which has forced many Bhutanese of Nepalese origin to leave their homeland.

"Many of them have entered into Nepal in search of food and shelter. This must be stopped by creating an atmosphere to encourage the Bhutar [word indistinct] to return to their homeland, and let them remain as dignified citizens."

Opposition Criticizes Cost of Living Increases

BK1811143291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1050 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 18 (AFP)—Nepalese opposition parties issued Monday separate statements denouncing the government's decision to increase electricity and telephone tariffs by 50 and 61 percent respectively, an opposition source said.

The increases became effective Sunday.

The source, a member of the United People's Front (UPF), said his party, the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) and the National Democratic Party (Chand faction) all sent letters of protest.

UPF convenor Baburam Bhattarai called for all leftist parties and the general public to unite in protests against the increases, the source said.

"At a time when market prices are unlimitedly increasing, the Nepalese people are forced to bear an extra economic burden", Bhattrarai said in his statement.

Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) Politburo member and parliamentarian Siddhi Lal Singh called the hikes "an irresponsible act" by the government.

"If the government headed by Girija Prasad Koirala will not change its decision on the price hikes of essential services, it would serve as an anti-democratic move in the country", Singh said.

"Instead of raising the tariffs, the elected government of the Nepali congress should have boldly taken measures to seal the leakages of the tariffs of electricity and telephone services, and their misuse in the government offices, ministries and by the higher authorities of the royal palace and the Central Secretariat," he added.

Singh said unscrupulous commission agents are driving up the prices of huge development projects, notably dams for hydroelectric power generation.

Meanwhile, the Nepal Consumers' Association also strongly objected to the increase in electricity rates and asked that they be withdrawn, noting that consumer prices have already jumped 35 percent since the Nepalese currency was devalued in July.

Prime Minister Plans Cabinet Reshuffle

BK2811150291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1445 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 28 (AFP)—Amid soaring inflation and unpopular telephone and electricity price hikes, Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala is planning a cabinet reshuffle, sources close to Koirala said Thursday.

"The changes in the Koirala ministry are expected to take place some time next week," the sources said.

Nepal's inflation has been fuelled by rises in electricity and telephone charges of 61 and 50 percent respectively, the sources said.

"The main objective of revamping the present Council of Ministers is to relieve the ministers by providing only one portfolio to each of them so that they can work hard and pay attention to running their respective ministries efficiently," the sources said.

Ministers who had performed badly could be dropped, the sources said, adding their identities and those of new ministers remained secret.

The sources said Koirala could reshuffle his cabinet ahead of his planned four-day visit to India starting December 5.

Nepal's leftist political parties, including the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist), backed by the All Nepal Nationalist Independent Students' Union, are scheduled to hold a massive protest march in Kathmandu Friday, the sources said.

Friday will mark the completion of Koirala's first six months in office.

The delay in announcing new polices and last July's devaluation of the Nepalese currency by 22 percent against the U.S. dollar has caused 30 percent inflation, a government critic said.

Pakistan

Opposition Strike in Sindh 'Totally Failed'

BK3011162791 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] The strike call given by the opposition, including PPP [Pakistan People's Party], in Sindh today went absoluted unnoticed and totally failed to evoke any response from the masses. Life remained normal in Karachi, Hyderabad, and Sukkur, where business centers, offices, and schools remained open. Partial strike

was observed in some towns of Sindh. Traffic on superhighway and national highway remained normal.

The Sindh chief minister, Jam Sadiq Ali, paid a suprise visit to various commercial areas of Karachi today for about three hours. He asked the shopkeepers to continue their business and not to come under any pressure. He said the government will provide security to the citizens.

Prime Minister Urges Muslim Weapons Cooperation

BK0112162691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1254 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 1 (AFP)—Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Sunday that Pakistan would seek to collaborate with other Muslim nations to produce sophisticated weapon systems.

"The Muslim countries which occupy geopolitically a pivotal position in the world are blessed with immense resources," Nawaz Sharif said in a speech read out on his behalf at an international defence science and technology seminar.

The three-day seminar, organized by the Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF) at Wah near here, is being attended by defence technology experts from the United States, France, China, United Kingdom, Sweden, Turkey, and Egypt.

Nawaz Sharif urged the Muslim world to set up modern research and development facilities in line with Islamic ideology which "supports scientific learning as an act of faith."

However, he said, Pakistan did not wish to acquire military strength to "threaten anyone," adding that "we merely desire to be strong enough to deter aggression."

"We do not seek war and we want our region to become totally free of tensions."

Nawaz Sharif said his government had opened up Pakistan for foreign investment and promised all possible assistance to defence manufacturers to set up production and research and development facilities in the country.

"The central location of Pakistan, the level of technical skill available and the size of Pakistani Armed Forces strongly justify the establishment of sophisticated defence industries in Pakistan," he said.

Earlier, POF Chairman Lieutenant General Sabeeh Qamar-uz-Zaman, said the developed countries would subject transfer of sophisticated technology to more "suffocating restrictions" in future while maximising profits from sale of modern weapons.

The developing countries will continue to pay "the price of ignorance" until they establish their own research and development facilities, he said.

The general said POF had drawn up an "ambitious" plan to modernise its product range and it had already created production facilities for cluster bombs and electronic proximity fuses.

He said the POF exports arms and ammunition worth 30 million dollars annually.

Commentary Criticizes India's Kashmir Policy

BK3011111291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Mohammad Yamin commentary]

[Text] It is a matter of great surprise and pity that while the occupied Kashmir is going under the ceaseless human rights violations being perpetrated there by the Indian occupational forces, the Government of India should try to calm the issue by shifting the blame to Pakistan. This is precisely what the Indian delegate seems to have done the other day while addressing the Social Committee of the UN General Assembly on the worsening situation in Kashmir.

The Indian official alleged that Pakistan was instigating terrorism in Kashmir. The allegation, of course, is as baseless as it is a vain attempt to divert the world attention from the gross violations of human rights being committed there. That India's propaganda ploy is not cutting any ice is evident from the fact that earlier in the debate on Kashmir in the Social Committee of the UN General Assembly, the Canadian ambassador and the Dutch ambassador, speaking on behalf of the European Community, had expressed the grave concern of Canada and the EEC states over the worsening situation in the held state and the increasing incidents of human rights violations in the occupied territory. As appropriately pointed out by a Pakistani delegate who participated in the full debate at the General Assembly Social Committee, the baselessness of the Indian allegations had already been revealed by the fact that Pakistan had offered to invite independent observers to ascertain the truthfulness of the Indian claims, while India had declined to make a similar offer.

No amount of such sophistry by the Indian diplomats at the UN or elsewhere can any longer hide the facts as they are and the actual situation on the ground in the occupied state. High-ranking officials and public representatives around the world have reacted to the brutal murders, mass arrests, loot and arson of private property, torture, house searches, and gang rapes taking place in the occupied Kashmir and have condemned the Indian Government's insensitivity in the matter. Independent human rights organizations such as the Amnesty International and the Asia Watch have also taken note of the situation and called the Indian Government's attention to it. Even fair-minded Indian human rights organizations and the leading Indian authors and political commentators have been critical of the Indian Government's connivance and actual encouragement of the terrorist activities inside the held territory.

The crux of the matter is and it has been borne out of history that a dispute exists over Jammu and Kashmir and its future state. The question has been on the agenda of the UN Security Council since 1947. A number of UN commissions have since then visited the South Asian subcontinent to resolve the dispute in accordance with the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. A plebiscite to ascertain the will of the people of the state whether they would like to join India or Pakistan was proposed by India itself and agreed by Pakistan. In pursuance of this, an eminent personality from the United States was even appointed as the plebiscite administrator for Kashmir. But, then India (?refused) on its international commitments and its legal and moral obligation to the Kashmiri people and has used one ruse after the other to shelve the matter.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir having unsuccessfully waited long decades in the hope that India would after all fulfill its promise regarding plebiscite have revived their struggle for freedom, while they had in fact [word indistinct] against the tyrannical rule of the state's Dogra raja [king] much before India and Pakistan became independent nations. The question is that of the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people. This is their inalienable right, and Pakistani people having strong bonds of shared faith and cultural, ethnic, and linguistic links with the Kashmiri people cannot remain insensitive to their heroic struggle for freedom. Pakistan would continue to extend all the political and moral support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, whose uprising is purely indigenous. Also, the point to remember is that ill-equipped Kashmiri freedom fighters are not indulging in any acts of terrorism. The Indian occupational forces are, who are armed to their teeth and who are directing the acts of vandalism against the innocent civilian population.